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PRICE, 50 CENTS.

DR. RIGBY'S

PAPERS ON FLORIDA,

GIVING A GENERAL VIEW OF EVERY PORTION OF

THE STATE, ITS CLIMATE, RESOURCES, STATISTICS,  
SOCIETY, CROPS, TRADE, &c.

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By T. C. RIGBY, M. D.

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CINCINNATI:

E. MENDENHALL,

PUBLISHER & BOOKSELLER.

1876.

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## PREFACE.

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In bringing this book before the public, it has been my endeavor to give as brief a description of every portion of the State of Florida as would still give the reader a good, fair knowledge of the different Counties, Cities, Towns, etc. Having visited the State several years ago to recruit my health, and finding the climate so very delightful, I have since spent the greater part of eight years in traveling through the State, visiting every county, investigating its soil, products, etc., to my own satisfaction; and in a great many instances I have been over the ground several times during this period. A great deal of my travel has been in the saddle, and by this means I have been enabled to explore regions of country that do not generally meet the view of the superficial or main-road traveler. I am not personally interested one dollar in the State of Florida, and what appears in this work is published from a wish mainly to bring, in a proper light, before a too often ill-informed public, facts and information which can only be attained by fair research.

I also bring before the public, as an assistant to the better understanding and locating the different sections herein described, a book entitled "Rigby's Florida Chart and Hand Book." This little book will be found valuable to the reader. See advertisement in back of book.

Truly, Yours,

T. C. RIGBY, M. D.





# PAPERS ON FLORIDA.

BY T. C. RIGBY, M. D.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH.

From the earliest discovery of Florida, in 1497, by Sebastian Cabot, five years after the first voyage of Columbus, up to the present time, she has ever and anon been the subject of considerable interest. As early as 1512 Ponce de Leon landed on her shores in search of health, hoping to find in her glades or forests the rejuvenating fountains of eternal youth. Other Spanish expeditions for the conquest of Florida followed, the most noted of which was that under Hernando de Soto in 1539. This bold and chivalric adventurer, with a thousand mail-clad followers, landed at Tampa Bay (San Esperitu), and amid the hardships and dangers of penetrating and traversing an unexplored country, inhabited by barbarous and hostile savages, made his way northward beyond the present confines of the State, and thence pursued a southward route to the Mississippi, when his own restless career and that of his ill-starred expedition terminated. His failure to find among the natives the precious metals in abundance, as his compatriots Pizarro and

Cortez had done in Peru and Mexico, cooled the ardor of the avaricious Spaniards for conquest and domination in the vast territory then claimed as Florida.

The first permanent settlement was made in the sixteenth century, by some French Huguenots, on and near the mouth of the St. John's River. A few years after they were massacred as heretics and foreigners. A similar fate soon overtook the perpetrators of this barbarous deed. In 1565 the Spanish governor, Menendez, founded St. Augustin; and consequently, for antiquity, its claims to priority over every other place in the United States are conceded to. From this time Florida became a petty colony of Spain, only attracting a little attention now and then during the continental wars of Europe. From 1713 to 1784 Florida was a British possession, during which time an Englishman named Turnbull planted a colony of Minorcans at New Smyrna; but on the recession to Spain the colony was broken up. In 1819 Spain ceded Florida to the United States, and in 1821 the latter took formal possession.



During the time of nearly three centuries of Spanish claim and possession, but a few small settlements had been made along the coast, the principal of which was Pensacola. With the decadence of the Spanish power in Europe that of the colonies kept pace, and no efforts appear to have been made either to possess and cultivate the soil or to civilize the aborigines. On the other hand it seems that her Indian population received some considerable recessions from those of Georgia and Alabama, so that when Florida was ceded to the United States, it is estimated that there were not exceeding six hundred whites in the territory, while occupied by a tolerably dense Indian population throughout. The number of refugee Indians was so great and preponderating so as to attach the name Seminoles, (meaning refugee, or runaway), to the whole of the Florida Indians.

It is highly probable that the Spaniards made some efforts to establish a settlement in the extreme southern part of the peninsula, as being nearest and most accessible to Cuba. And there are strong probabilities that they projected and undertook to drain Lake Okechobee, as various completed sections of canal from the Lake to the Caloosahatchie River are still to be seen. In relation to this there is a legend that they had a penal establishment on an island in the lake, and that it was with convict labor that this effort to drain the lake was made.

In 1845 Florida was admitted into the Union, and thence on, her political history has been that of the other States, and particularly those of the South. From her cession to the United States to within two years of her secession, Florida was continually the theater of hostilities between the General Government and the Seminole Indians.

The latter were easily driven into the peninsula, but here, with Spartan courage and Roman firmness, they resisted alternate coercion and persuasion to go West, and a feeble remnant still remains, evincing the instinctive love of country even in the savage breast. The presence of so large a tribe of Indians, together with their frequent and protracted hostilities, retarded the settlement of the peninsula for nearly forty years.

Since the late war the State has attracted considerable attention on account of the mildness of its winter climate and fruit growing. But, so far, the eastern part, because of its greater accessibility, has been the only portion much visited or settled. The whole State is generally judged in both soil and climate by what the tourist experiences and sees along the St. John's, and thus he fails to arrive at anything like a correct estimate of these two important features of the State.

Florida is a much larger State than Iowa or Illinois, containing an area of 59,868 square miles, or 37,931,520 acres. Very large concessions of these lands have been made to the State by Congress for works of internal improvement. The population by census of 1870 was 187,748, and Governor Reid, in his message to the Legislature in 1872, estimated the increase of the two years at 40,000, and the ratio of increase is much higher at present, for a knowledge of the inducements which the State offers to settlers have been widely diffused. The mildness of the climate, the productions of the soil, and the cheapness of the land have induced many to emigrate from the Northern States and from Europe, who have invested capital in agriculture or lumbering, which, at present, are the the leading pursuits of the people and the chief

sources of wealth. Cotton, corn, sugar-corn, rice, sweet and Irish potatoes, oranges, lemons, pine-apples, bananas, indigo, &c., are the principal crops. The raising of vegetables and fruits for the Northern markets has proved profitable, and will in a few years add materially to the trade and wealth of the State.

Comparing the Great West with Florida, I would say: 'Having lived in Ohio before the war, and in Indiana since the war, and having traveled extensively over the principal Western States between that time and this, I am able to state, confidently, that there is not anywhere else on earth so vast a body of extremely fertile land as that between the Great Lakes and the Rocky Mountains. As a food-producing region it so far excels Florida that that whole State is not equal to one county in some of the most fertile portions of the Great West. It will always have an immense agricultural population, producing a great superabundance of food and wealth, supporting great cities, and numerous railways and steamers to transport its surplus produce. Some of it now even reaches Florida, to feed the settlers on its soil. But, with all the great abundance of the West, I would rather live in Florida, than upon the best farm in any of a dozen of those extremely rich States. And for this simple reason: 'What profiteth it a man to gain the whole wealth of all the West and lose the enjoyment of this delightful climate?'

'In point of health none of the Western States can show a record that will compare at all favorably with Florida. Here, it is true, you are subject to malarious diseases; show me a State in the West that can boast of freedom from such; and some of them have

them in greater extent than this, and in a more malignant type. Here, consumption, the North's most dreaded enemy, is almost unknown, except when imported. Here, diptheria, another scourge of all the Northern and Western States, scarcely, if ever prevails. So of pneumonia, scarlet fever, typhus fever and other diseases that are inherent to cold climates. It is true people must and will die there, but while they live they can anticipate a longer life and can live healthier and far more comfortably there than in Northern climates, particularly in old age, or feeble constitutions.

'Of crops, it is true that Florida will never produce such as grow in the West. I have traveled there forty miles upon a straight line through what appeared as one corn field. I have bought and sold corn there for ten cents a bushel, and I have known it sold for less; and so have I known it used extensively for fuel on account of its depreciated value.

'It is not at all likely that Florida will ever compete with the West in corn, oats, wheat, and many other food crops, nor in the production of beef, pork, mutton, wool, nor domestic animals; and I fear it will be a long, long time before I shall see in Florida such a continued succession of handsome farms and farm houses, mills, factories, cities, villages, school houses, churches, and other public and private buildings, as a traveler may see upon every hand as he goes westward of Lake Erie a thousand miles.

'In the West, apples can be grown for about the same price per bushel as corn; yet there are many farms without orchards, because it is useless to grow only for the owner's private use, just as it was in Florida a few years ago to grow an abundance of oranges. Now,

anywhere within reach of easy transportation oranges find a ready market, and the greater the production the better will be the market, and the sales at home or abroad will always be double the price of apples, where they grow almost spontaneously. Yet the growing of oranges will cost no more than the growing of apples, and very much less than peaches when they are produced in the largest quantities. The locality where they have been grown most abundantly, and at the least cost, is upon the eastern coast of Lake Michigan.

"Will the market become overstocked if the cultivation of orange trees and the production of other tropical fruits is greatly increased in Florida? This question is often asked, and sometimes in a manner that indicates a belief in the questioner that it certainly will be, and California and other fruit-producing regions are instanced in proof of that belief. It is very easy to overstock the market when the fruit is produced solely for home supply, and so far from the great centres of consumption that it will not bear transportation. That is the reason why fruit culture is not profitable in California.

"The Florida orange-grower will always have an advantage over all the rest of the world, owing to his geographical position and ability to put his fruit into a score of great cities by cheap water conveyance, in less than a week from the gathering from his trees. Can such a market be overstocked? Not if there was a sea-going steamer leaving the St. John's every day, and a train of orange-loaded cars leaving Jacksonville every hour. Whoever has witnessed the arrival of peaches in New York and Chicago, as I have done, and seen how quickly the freight of a large steamer or a long train of cars is absorbed by the dealers to be consumed by a hungry

multitude, can readily believe this statement about the future of the orange trade of Florida. I have no shadow of a doubt but that I shall live to see the Great Southern Railway completed through that State and see it become the greatest carrier in the world of oranges and other semi-tropical fruits to the vast region of consumers North, East and West of Florida, which cannot produce, but will consume these cultivated fruits in such quantities that its extensive area of fruit soil, if every acre was devoted to its production, can never overstock the market. Am I over-sanguine? Let us reason from analogy. Some persons may remember the first settlements of fruit-growers upon what was called the Barrens of New Jersey,—a vast, flat, sandy and wooded region in the south-eastern part of that State. Fruit-growers traveled extensively through the woods and scrubby oak bushes, and examined the soil, if sand can be called soil,—just such soil as we frequently have in Florida,—and convinced themselves that sandy surface does not always indicate barrenness. It does, when combined with calcareous matter, and covered with forests and other growth, indicate fitness for some profitable products, although it may not be adapted to several crops, and may need more artificial fertilization than the great Western prairies. For the opinion and advocacy of utilizing the Jersey barrens, these fruit-growers were laughed at, ridiculed and abused by the press, but it did not stop their determination, nor the influx of settlers upon those Jersey barrens, and the building of some of the most beautiful villages in the State, and the establishing of numbers of the most profitable farms and fruit-gardens. And I have seen at one of those villages, of a fine summer evening, a whole train of



railway cars loaded with strawberries to be sent off during the night to that insatiable monster, the New York market. And this from a village that had not a business habitation, nor an acre in cultivation ten years before that time. Did such a train glut the market? No, nor half a dozen others arriving the same day; nor will a dozen of orange trains glut it; for in this the orange-grower has the great advantage of durability. Strawberries and other small fruit so extensively cultivated in the Northern and Western States, are so perishable that they must be consumed in fewer hours and days than oranges will keep sound for weeks. Besides, the small fruit season lasts fewer weeks than the orange season does months; and out of season the small fruits are unsaleable, while the oranges are never out of season or out of place upon any table. I grant that fact also applies to apples and pears, which Florida does not produce to any extent, in comparison to the Northern and Western States; but I contend that oranges can be produced in Florida at the same price per bushel that apples are in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri, where they grow to such perfection. I grant, too, that apples are the superior fruit, of far more value in a family than oranges, yet I must also acknowledge, that oranges, in the greatest fruit markets of the country will always outsell apples.

"At the same time I must admit that the West has advantages over Florida for a person disposed to devote his attention to fruit culture. This is transportation. Whatever brings the producer and consumer together solves the question of profit to whoever tills the soil. In Florida, on the other hand, out of an area larger than New York, where land can be bought for a fraction

over a dollar per acre, suitable for the cultivation of oranges and other semi-tropical fruits, there are only a few thousand acres available, owing to lack of means of transportation. Of course time will bring this necessity, as the State is more developed. In mere richness of soil the West is incomparably superior to Florida. But that very richness makes production so easy and abundant that farmers reap but small profits from their abundant means of transportation. That is why corn is burned for fuel. Corn in the West is a cheap product and won't bear long transportation. Apples would, but they are perishable, particularly in an atmosphere that sometimes marks twenty-five degrees below Zero. Still, the inexhaustible richness of soil in the West, and its vast extent of lines of easy transportation, and its great and rapidly increasing population, give it immense advantages to all who can endure its intolerable climate and sea of mud and melting snow. For myself, after what I have experienced in my acquaintance with the West, and having tasted of the sweet fruits of Florida's climate, I have no desire to seek further acquaintance with any of the Western States, notwithstanding their richness of soil and agricultural products.

"Winter in the North and West is simply a state of torment, and the heat of summer exceeds the heat of Florida, and the night air is so close and stagnant to often prevent comfortable sleep,—not so in Florida, the nights are cool and refreshing there winter and summer. In every point of view, so far as nature is concerned, Florida is far more preferable for human residence to any portion of the Western States. In all artificial respects, Florida must wait patiently on time and work to accomplish improvements, which will

follow, of course, an increase of population. As compared with the West, my conclusion, after eight years' knowledge of the State, and traveling over it during this period pretty thoroughly, is simply this: That in all that makes life desirable, so far as nature has made it, Florida is not only the peer, but the superior, of any of those great mines of agricultural wealth in the States which we have familiarly denominated the Great West, and that the day is not far distant, when the State will compete in population and wealth with any State of the Union."

The means of transportation are rapidly increasing, new tracts of country being laid out, extensive saw-mills being erected, and everything indicating prosperity for the State. Out of thirty-nine counties, twenty-two of them have a seashore border, while the St. John's, the St. Mary's, the Suwannee, the Ocklocknee, the Indian, the Hillsborough, the Halifax, the Choctuwachie, and the Apalachicola Rivers are natural channels of approach to the most interior parts of the State. There are four lines of railroads already established in the State, one extending from Fernandina, on the Atlantic coast, to Cedar Keys, on the Gulf coast, connecting at Baldwin with the Jacksonville, Pensacola and Mobile Railroad, which extends from Jacksonville through the northern tier of counties to the Chattahoochee, at its point of junction with the Apalachicola. The latter line is connected at Live Oak with the Savannah line. Pensacola is connected with Montgomery by the Pensacola and Louisville Railroad. Tallahassee is connected with the Gulf by a branch of the Jacksonville, Pensacola and Mobile Railroad; while St. Augustine is connected with the St. John's by the St. Augustine and Tocoi Railroad. The

New Orleans, Florida and Havana Steamship Company have a weekly line connecting with the Atlantic and Gulf Railroad at Cedar Keys, and steamers connect with the Jacksonville, Pensacola and Mobile Railroad at Chattahoochee, for Eufula, Montgomery, St. Louis and the Great West. Steamers connect with the New York and Baltimore steamers at Charleston, S. C., and Savannah, Ga., for Jacksonville, Florida, where steamers run daily to the upper St. John's.

Among the many causes operating favorably in increasing the population and wealth of Florida, has been the confidence universally felt by settlers that every family coming into the State will be protected in life and property, and will not encounter that anarchy and disorder which have convulsed many of the other Southern States. There is nothing that has operated so disastrously to the cause of Southern immigration, as the disorders that have grown out of the late war, and which, in some sister States, still distract society. It is a matter for profound congratulation, that, while the bitterest passions of prejudice and hate have held uncontrolled sway in other portions of the South, Florida reposes in absolute peace and forgetfulness of the past, extending the right hand of fellowship to all, and inviting them ungrudgingly to share the honors equally with the duties of citizenship. The history of late elections furnish a forcible proof of the restoration of that social peace and tranquillity essential to the welfare of any State. Nothing is known of white leagues or those numerous political organizations which flourish through the South, and the existence of which is so repugnant to the spirit of Southern institutions and inimical to the well-being of society. Forbearance and modera-



tion have characterized the actions of both races in that State. As to voting, the Governor, in his last annual message, says: "Elections have passed with unprecedented order and quiet, and it is believed a fair expression of the people's will has been had. I have yet to learn of a single collision or disturbance at the polls, between races or opposing parties, growing out of political contest. Freedom of political opinion and action has been accorded alike to all and recognized as an essential principle of free government. Equal civil and political rights are denied to none, and the most cordial good-will prevails among all classes of our people. The citizens of Florida are loyal to the Government, and would cheerfully render any assistance in their power to uphold and defend it. A patriotism as broad and comprehensive as the American Union possesses their hearts, and I doubt if any State has a more loyal, patriotic and hospitable class of citizens than the people of Florida."

Governor Stearns is a Republican, and a one-armed veteran of a Maine regiment. He is a model Executive, and his Cabinet is hard to beat (morally and physically).

#### SOIL.

Perhaps in no State of the Union can there be found so great a variety of soil as in Florida. This is at once apparent to agriculturalists, when they take into consideration the fact that there is scarcely a vegetable product of any portion of the country that is not to be found flourishing here; besides, a very long list in which Florida enjoys a monopoly. It has been the practice of ill-informed writers and tourists who have "done the State" to the extent of visiting Jacksonville or seeing the St. John's bar, to speak of the State as an immense sand-bar. If Florida is nothing but a sand-

bar, whence all the splendor of vegetable life which is the theme of every traveler who has really examined and traversed the State? There never was a greater mistake. Even in its diluvial formation it differs widely from all other sections of the country, for the greater portion of it is clay intermixed with a calcareous formation. By far the larger portion, however, is a rich alluvium, from which spring the most majestic forms and prodigal display of vegetable life. The immense forests of live oak, water oak, hickory and magnolia, which are to be found in all parts of the State, and the magnificent savannas which cover the southern portions of the State as with an ocean of perpetual verdure, are not the products of sand-bars. When discovered by the Spaniards, centuries ago, it was reported to Spain as a widespread sea of vegetation, the splendor of which filled them with amazement. Probably since the time of its emergence from the ocean it has exhibited just such a scene of luxuriance; and year after year has the accumulation of decomposed vegetable matter been going on, the result being the formation of some of the richest lands on the continent. Even much of what is called sand is not sand, but soil, which, encouraged by a little fertilization, brings forth abundantly. Most of the poor lands are to be met with in the eastern portion of the State, and those who have made a trip up the St. Johns imagine they have received while going up the river a proper impression concerning the soil of the entire State. It is far from being correct, however, for it is not until the stranger has extended his visit to the middle and western counties that he gets a glimpse of the rich lands of Florida. Madison, Jefferson, Marion, Alachua, Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla, Liberty, Franklin, Taylor, Lafayette, Levy and Hernando

Counties, embracing what is called Middle Florida, a portion of East Florida and a strip of land along the Gulf coast, can not be excelled anywhere for variety and richness of soil. There is, of course, in every State and Territory of the Union a very large proportion of poor lands; but the ratio of these lands differ greatly in different States. Florida has a due proportion of poor and even worthless lands, but compared with other States, the ratio of her barren and worthless lands is very small. With the exception of the Everglades and some portions of irreclaimable swamp lands, there is scarcely an acre in the State which can not be made tributary to some agricultural production. Recent experiments made with the very poorest quality of pine lands have shown that they are not so worthless as was supposed, but can be made, in the hands of industrious and intelligent settlers, to yield abundant crops.

The bulk of the lands in the State is what is denominated "pine lands", and is divided into first, second and third rate. The soil of the first rate pine land rests upon a substratum of clay or marl, overtopped by a dark mould of decomposed vegetable matter. This land is exceedingly fertile, producing splendid yields of the most exhausting crops for several years in succession without any need of fertilization. There are large bodies of this class of land scattered throughout the northern tier of counties and along the Gulf coast.

The second class of pine lands is only a trifle less productive than those of the first class. Generally speaking, these lands are high and rolling, and are characterized by a heavy growth of pitch and yellow pine timber. They rest upon a basis similar to that of the first class, but the mould is lighter, and they show signs of exhaustion, if not

fertilized, after a few years. A little fertilization, however, restores their vigor. Cow-penning is the favorite mode of restoration, and treated in this way, they will yield 300 pounds of cotton to the acre.

The third class of pine lands is distinguished by being covered with a growth of saw-palmetto, black jack and a shrub called the gall-berry. The presence of the latter is a certain test of poor soil. Another feature of this land is the presence of "hard" or "slush" pine, the roots of which are to be found running very near the surface. These lands are not worthless, but can only be made to yield remuneratively after much labor and heavy fertilization. Sisal hemp can be grown very successfully on them, and with proper machinery to crush and prepare the fibre for market, their value would be equal to that of any other class of pine lands.

There is another species of pine land called by the natives "flat-woods." About four feet from the surface of this land a stratum of what is called sand-rock is found. This is composed of common fine sand, and cemented by sulphate of iron and aluminum; and a subsoil thus formed is almost impenetrable to moisture. As a consequence, it holds up all the rain-falls, so that the land becomes packed, and is known to the natives as "sodden land." Such soil is of very inferior quality, and is scarcely fit for profitable agriculture.

But by far the finest lands in the State are known as "swamp", "low hammock" and "high hammock" lands.

The swamp lands are the richest in the State. They are formed entirely of humus or decayed vegetable matter, of an extraordinary depth, and when rendered fit for cultivation, by drainage and ditching, give evidence of an inexhaustible fertility. It has been demon-

strated that these lands will yield four hogsheads of sugar to the acre,—a most convincing proof of their great value, especially when it is borne in mind that sugar-cane is one of the most exhausting crops known. Immense bodies of these lands are located in central and Southern Florida. Drainage is necessary, however, to render the greater portion available for purposes of agriculture. There are perhaps over a million acres of these lands in the State which can be purchased at from seventy-five cents to a dollar and a quarter an acre.

The lands denominated "low hammock" rank next to the swamp lands in fertility. They are generally moist, and some ditching is required for successful cultivation. They will sustain a succession of the most exhausting crops for several years with as much apparent vigor as the swamp lands, but are not so durably rich, and need fertilization after some time.

High hammocks are the most desirable lands in the State for general purposes of agriculture. They are covered with a growth of live oak, hickory and magnolia; and the surface is for the most part high and gently undulating. The soil is exceedingly rich, and will produce all the crops of the country in a highly remunerative degree. Their productiveness is apparent from the fact that three hogsheads of sugar per acre have been made from them. The chief labor connected with their cultivation is the clearing. Once cleared, however, they are free from pernicious weeds and grasses, and but little labor is required in working them. These lands are very abundant. In Levy County alone there are over one hundred thousand acres of first-class hammock land; while in Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson, Jackson, Marion and Alachua Counties, they form the great bulk of the land, and can be pur-

chased at from two to ten dollars per acre, according to the different stages of improvement.

From this it will be clearly seen that the variety of soil in the State is amply sufficient to meet the preferences of all, and supply the requirements for nearly every character of husbandry. From the very wide scope which vegetation takes in the State, there is every opportunity for selection of crop, and an abundance of the best land can be secured to meet such selection. The hammock lands produce abundantly of all crops adapted to this climate. Naturally, the first settlers select these lands that promise the greatest return for the least labor, and decry the high pine lands. It is underrating too much the resources of modern scientific agriculture not to believe these lands capable of producing a fair profit in return for thorough cultivation. We know of repeated instances where ordinary pine lands have been fertilized and cultivated in the manner that good farming is practised in other sections of the country, and the returns have far exceeded that of any of the staple productions of the North.

But the agricultural element of Florida is as yet but a handful of men in an unbroken wilderness. They need help and co-operation. There, beneath a summer sky, where food and warmth and shelter may be had at a minimum expenditure of labor, I would say to the hundreds of idle men in Northern cities, who are vainly seeking to bar the wolf of famine from one door, while trying to close the other against the rigors of an unsparing winter; and to the thousands of farmers over the broad Territories of the West, who often brood over a desolation unequalled by the plagues of Egypt, what you most desire, Florida possesses abundantly. The labor that



you can not utilize is her sorest need. But do not be deceived. I paint no Utopia. Though nature is beneficent in her genial climate, she will not open her treasures to the hand of idleness. Here, as elsewhere, the sturdy arm of labor is required to wrest from her grasp the riches of hidden harvests.

The settler in Florida, particularly if from a Northern State, must remember that the conditions of agriculture there, are as different from those he has left as heat from cold. Many accede to this fact without realizing it. Because they do not find everywhere fields of grain and grass, they come to the conclusion that this is a poor country. It does not seem to occur to them that, because he has to buy his sugar and cotton cloth, he lives in a poor country. They do not think it strange that a man in Massachusetts warms himself by a fire of coal from Pennsylvania, or that the shingles on his house were brought from the forests of Maine or Minnesota, and that the greater part of his grain and grass crop has to be exchanged for these things. They look upon a field of sugar-cane or a grove of oranges as a curiosity, and not as so much money value return for labor. A cotton field is truly a novelty, but it does not appear to them in the light of a bill of exchange, which the Southern farmer turns at the nearest store for cash, or articles of need or luxury. With plenty of excellent fish in every water course; beef, venison, bear and small game, such as turkey, quail, curlew, snipe and ducks in their season in abundance, also oysters on the sea coast, and a climate fast becoming recognized as unequalled by that of any other portion of the country, and is not surpassed by delicious Italy, what can man want under the sun else to make him happy, if he will surely exert himself to attain such blessings.

#### THE CLIMATE.

The climate is the principal attraction to settlers and visitors; it is in fact an insular climate; the Atlantic Ocean on the east and the Gulf of Mexico on the west modify the air that blows over the peninsula, making it cooler in summer and warmer in winter; even in mid-summer the heat never reaches that extreme which is felt in higher latitudes, and during the year round it is the most agreeable and salubrious climate to be found on the Globe. The thermometer rarely falls below 30° in winter, or rises above 90° in summer. During the winter the atmosphere is dry and elastic; nearly six out of seven days are cloudless; and during the summer the nights are agreeably cool, it being rarely when one can sleep without the use of slight covering.

Florida extends from the 25° to the 31° north latitude, and lies within 80° and 88° west longitude from Greenwich; thus comprising about six degrees of latitude and nearly eight of longitude. The State has been likened in shape to a boot, the peninsula constituting the leg, and the continental portion the foot, with the toe to the West. The middle and western divisions of the State, except near the coast, are elevated and generally rolling; and this character of the country extends eastward beyond Lake City to the Little St. Mary's River. The country is also elevated and rolling down the middle and western slope of the peninsula to the 28° of latitude for the latter, and a little further south for the central ridge. From the St. Mary's River on the north, all along the eastern part of the State, the country is low and level beyond the head waters of the St. John's, and thus continues down the peninsula. The entire lower third of the peninsula is low

and level, and covered with extensive savannahs, lakes and everglades. A slightly more elevated ridge near the coast, on each side, is to be found in this latter portion.

Florida has no mountains, nor are there any in Georgia and Alabama of sufficient proximity to her borders to exercise any influence on her climate. In comparison with the St. John's, the other rivers wholly within her borders are small; and while the majority, like the St. John's, have their sources in lakes and swamps, others appear to be entirely of subterranean origin. This latter feature is peculiarly characteristic of many short but bold and voluminous rivers along the gulf coast of the peninsula, between the mouth of the Withlacoochie and Tampa Bay. Some smaller streams of a similar subterranean origin are to be found on the western side of the St. John's, into which they empty. In the elevated and rolling sections, most of the rain water escapes through subterranean passages found in sink-holes, into which lead one or more ditch-like ravines with numerous tributaries. The soil is mostly a silicious sand, loose and porous in elevated sections, fine and compact in those low and level. In some localities in Middle and West Florida there is some clay soil.

Exposed as Florida is on the east to the Atlantic and on the south and west to the Gulf of Mexico, and having a large area of level country on the north, her climate, owing to frequent changes in the direction of the wind, may be considered rather variable during winter and spring as regards transitions of temperature. During March, 1873, the minimum temperature at Punta Rossa was  $38^{\circ}$ , a degree of cold sufficient for light frost in the interior elevated districts. At the same place in December, 1872, the minimum was  $35^{\circ}$ , which

may be considered as fully representing a light frost in the interior. A temperature of freezing,  $32^{\circ}$ , for March has occasionally occurred at Tampa, and light frosts for the same month are almost an annual occurrence. The average minimum temperature at Tampa, for winter, for a period of twelve years, is  $34^{\circ} 4'$ ; though the thermometer may some winters fall even below  $30^{\circ}$ . It was down to  $30^{\circ}$  in 1843, 1849 and 1852. In 1857 the thermometer fell to  $26^{\circ}$  at Tampa,  $32^{\circ}$  at Fort Myers,  $29^{\circ}$  at Fort Pierce on Indian River, and to  $30^{\circ}$  at Fort Dallas on the Miami. In 1835 the thermometer is said to have fallen at Fort King, near Beala, one degree north of Tampa, to  $11^{\circ}$ , or  $21^{\circ}$  below freezing. At the same date it is reputed to have fallen to  $7^{\circ}$  in the latitude of St. Augustine, and that all kinds of fruit trees were killed in the ground and extensive orange groves destroyed.

Remembering that Fort Dallas is low down on the eastern coast of the peninsula, below the 26th degree of latitude, it becomes very questionable whether there is any part of the peninsula universally exempt from frost, though still of not sufficient intensity to materially affect tropical plants. Such depressions are never of much intensity, however, south of the 29th degree of latitude as to jeopardize bearing sweet orange trees, though sometimes fatal to those of only a few years' growth, and such perennial tropical plants as the banana, pineapple, etc. In these unusual depressions, however, this climate forms no exception, as the same thing does occur in the milder temperate latitudes of the eastern hemisphere.

The maximum temperature of summer generally ranges from  $92^{\circ}$  to  $95^{\circ}$ , rarely exceeding the latter except in the northern part of the State. This fact is so



contrary to the impression generally entertained by the public outside of the State, that to many the statement appears at first incredible. It need not appear so strange, however, when it is remembered that in the north temperate zone the days are longer and the nights shorter during summer as we advance from the lower to the higher latitudes, and that consequently the rays of heat from the sun are longer concentrated on the earth's surface with a proportionately shorter night for cooling by radiation. The reverse being the case in winter, it is thus that an equal distribution of heat for the year in the lower and higher latitudes of the same zone is insured, the winter deficiency being compensated by the summer excess.

The regular alternation of the land and sea breezes, the latter being the cooler by several degrees, greatly ameliorates also the summer heat of Florida, and marked so all along her extensive coast. The climate of Florida is remarkably equable and proverbially agreeable, being subject to fewer atmospheric variations, and its thermometric ranges much less than any other part of the United States, except a portion of the coast of California.

Another element to be considered is humidity of the atmosphere, and the amount of rainfall. Regarding the humidity of the atmosphere, the amount of data is so imperfect, and the positions of the few signal stations too unlike and peculiar individually to allow of any attempt at generalization. Yet their general tendency is to correct an erroneous impression entertained by some, that there is greater humidity for the winter the lower the peninsula is descended. The mean monthly percentage of relative humidity gives pretty nearly the same for all four signal stations. But it must be evident that that for Punta

Rossa—from its littoral position—can not be considered as fairly representing the interior of the peninsula, from the greater humidity of the atmosphere always present on the coast. While there is no great variation from the annual mean for any season, yet spring shows the least percentage. The relative percentage of humidity is, however, not in excess of that of the Atlantic States, nor of California during winter, as observed at San Francisco and San Diego, so far as a cursory examination enables me to judge. The saline impregnation of this moisture, arising from the Atlantic and the Gulf, doubtless imparts to it also antiseptic and salubrious properties.

The rainfall in Florida is not characterized by uniformity as to amount for different years and same seasons, nor as regards sections and localities. This variation from the mean is greater in excess than deficiency. In 1840 the rainfall at Tampa was 89 inches, and in 1854, 69 inches, yet the minimum rainfall has never been below 40 inches during the same period of observation. Again, at Pensacola, in 1875, it amounted to 77 inches. The exposed position of St. Augustine immediately on the Atlantic, accounts to some extent for the smaller average rainfall at that place as compared with other points in the State. The same applies to Punta Rossa as a signal station, though hardly with equal force, as the latter is not quite so exposed to the open sea. The well-known fact that there is less rain on the coast than in the interior is a sufficient explanation. The rain is not equally distributed through the year, but is so much frequer in summer as to specially denominate that the rainy season.

From a close comparison of data, I find that as a rule the summer rain in Florida is three times more than that of winter. This, taken in connection with

the mean annual rainfall of the Atlantic Gulf States and the winter rainfall of the Pacific States, demonstrates the winter climate of Florida to be a comparatively dry one, especially that of the peninsula. As nearly all the ports where meteorological observations were made are on the peninsula, it is presumable that this estimate more fully represents that section than it does the northern portions of the State. It is only the peninsular portion of the State that has a climate of its own, markedly different and distinct from that of the northern portions of the State, which possess no distinctive features from similar sections, contiguous to the coast, of the other Gulf States. The winter climate of the peninsula is dry, and this dryness becomes more marked as the peninsula is descended.

When the climate of Florida is compared with that of any other of the United States, its superiority becomes apparent. As to dryness of winter climate, the peninsula compares favorably with Lower California. If compared to the drier ones of Arizona, New Mexico and the lower Rio Grande, we find there a greater thermometric range, a less equable temperature with a lower mean, and much greater summer heat. And considering the soil of those western dry sections, it is evident that this arid condition of their atmosphere must, of itself, be a very serious drawback. The soil being sandy, and in many places alkaline, can not fail to charge the air with fine particles of dust, which would prove more or less injurious to the lungs.

The climate of Florida may really be classed as comprising two seasons,—eight months of summer and four of warm weather. But it must be borne in mind that, with the summer in Florida is not to be associated the extreme heat

which characterizes not only the other Southern States, but the Northern States also. At no time within a period extending back for twenty years, has the thermometer thus indicated an extreme of heat as great by several degrees as that of any other of the Southern States, and many of the Northern States. During the memorable hot season of 1872, when the thermometer in New York, Boston, and other places farther north showed occasionally a temperature of 104 degrees, the highest range attained in Florida was only 96; and only twice was it observed at this height. Then, if we take the mean average range throughout the entire summer, it will be found that it is only a few degrees higher than that of the Northern States.

The northern tier of counties are visited by frost occasionally in the winter, but it is generally very slight. It appears there usually in December, and seldom shows itself later than the middle of February. The central counties are visited also by frost, but its presence is rather welcome than otherwise. The southern counties however, are entirely exempt from it, and tropical fruits, the most sensitive to cold, flourish there unmolested. A dish of strawberries, or a plate of green peas grown in the open air in the month of January, can not but present evidence, as convincing as it is agreeable, of the salubrity of the climate, while the presence of trees and shrubs in full foliage, and gardens filled with thrifty vegetables at a time when all nature is wrapped at the North in a winding sheet of snow, bespeak climatic conditions understood by all. To those who have become tired of the rigors of the northern winters, or seek an escape from the extremes of both heat and cold, Florida offers a geniality and gratefulness of climate that is unsurpassed.

## HEALTHFULNESS.

The healthfulness of Florida is one of its chief characteristics, and its sanative influences are so well recognized, that it has become of late years a kind of asylum for invalids from all parts of the country. Nowhere in the State do you meet among the native population, or those who have resided in the State any length of time, those violent forms of disease which are met with in all the other States. It is true you meet the consumptive, the rheumatic, the dyspeptic and the debilitated, but in almost every instance they are strangers to the soil, and have sought the State to bask in its sunshine and drink in the life-giving influences with which its air is laden. Of course in a country exhibiting such an exuberance of vegetation as Florida, and where the breath of winter is scarcely felt, the presence of malaria is to be expected; but the diseases arising from malarial influences are limited to the very mildest forms of fevers and bilious complaints. There are no such uncomfortable and dangerous symptoms of malarial poisoning met with in Florida as manifest themselves in various parts of the States of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana. Bilious fever of a remittent character is prevalent, but it yields readily to proper treatment. Intermittent fever is also common, but it is rarely attended with dangerous results, as the mode of treatment is well understood. But in many parts of the State even these forms of fever are unknown. St. Augustine has long enjoyed an exemption from all malarial fevers. Jacksonville is equally favored. In Pensacola malarial fevers are seldom met with in the practice of the city physicians. In fact, at scarcely any point along the Atlantic coast are malarial fevers troublesome. In many parts, too,

of the interior the inhabitants enjoy the same exemption. In any case, from my observation, the tourist or settler may rely on it that he is no more liable to suffer from fever in Florida than in any other section of the country.

For consumptives, or those suffering from chronic disorders of the mucous membranes, whether of the air passages or of the digestive organs, Florida presents an asylum such as no other part of the United States can furnish. There is not a case in which a warm, moist air is needed to soothe and quiet the lungs and throat, in which the climate of Florida will not prove a specific,—and in nine-tenths of the cases this is what is demanded. There are some cases in which a dry atmosphere is preferable, but even in these the interior part of the State—Gainesville for instance—offers every possible chance for a cure of the disease. The curative, or at least, palliative properties of certain preparations of the pine tree, so well known to resident physicians, assisting in a great measure the entire recovery. Here are vast forests of pines, breathing forth their balm till the whole air is fragrant with it, and if there is a possibility of relief for the unfortunate victim of consumption, this, in conjunction with the genial sunshine and soft, balmy atmosphere, will effect it. Any amount of testimony could be given as to the curative effects of the climate here on consumptives. There are thousands of individuals throughout the State enjoying excellent health, and the prospect of long lives, who were the most undoubted victims of the disease, and who would have been in their graves had they not changed their Northern homes for homes in the State. Of course there are a great many who go only to find their graves. They have lingered at the North until the disease



has fostered itself upon their vitals beyond the possibility of recovery. Their skeleton forms may be seen every day. They go to that State expecting the climate to work a miracle upon them—a miracle no less stupendous than life from the dead. To such I have only a few words to say—stay at home.

To the invalid I would further say, there is danger, however, in this balmy climate—you may feel too well, and, forgetting the almanac, come home too soon. And this is the true reason why many are rather injured than benefitted by a winter in Florida—they come home too soon. One really becomes confused about the seasons; summer and winter are so jumbled together that, between the almanac and the weather, you are completely confused. You date your letters "January," and yet you are sitting by an open window without a fire, and feel as though May had come; you have had so long a spring that you think it must surely be midsummer; feeling well, you start homeward, and find that at your journey's end you have left May behind and gotten into January. Your frame rendered more susceptible to cold by the winter's warmth which you have been enjoying, is easily affected, and you suffer by the change, and suffer severely. Go to Florida as fast as you choose—but, if you value life, come away slowly; it is a dangerous climate for the invalid to leave. Feel your way home gradually; judge by your sensation, and journey accordingly; go to Savannah, then to Charleston, then to Aiken; then halt, and read the papers to learn whether there has been snow about the lakes. If there has, wait until the snow melts, and the blue birds begin to sing, then proceed leisurely, and let June find you in your northern home. A better plan perhaps would be to follow the straw-

berries. In early April you will find them abundant in Tallahassee, march with their ripening, and come slowly North, eating as you go. By the way, no fruit is better for the invalid; and although God could assuredly make a better berry, yet he certainly never did. Travelers, invalids especially, should have an almanac of leaves, flowers and fruits as guides and regulators of temperature.

The climate of Florida is also well adapted for the cure of rheumatism; in fact it may be regarded as a specific for this disease. By a regular warmth of the body, the skin is kept in a continual moisture, and the pores are thus rendered active, and the disease is eliminated and the pains lessened. Again, under this condition the fibrine in the blood is diminished, and the secretions of all the organs of the body are increased. Add to these influences the bathing in the tepid Sulphur Springs, and the cure is complete.

I will conclude this topic with the following extract from Surgeon-General Lawson's late report of the health of Florida compared with other States:

"The statistics collected by this Bureau demonstrate fully the fact that the diseases resulting from malaria are of a much milder type in the peninsula of Florida than in any other State of the Union. These records show that the ratio of deaths to the number of cases has been much less than among the troops serving in any other portion of the United States. In the Middle Division of the United States the proportion is one death in thirty-six cases; in the Northern Division, one to fifty-two; in the Southern Division, one to fifty-four; in Texas, one to seventy-eight; in California, one to one hundred and twenty-two; in New Mexico, one to one hundred and forty-eight; while in

Florida it is but one to two hundred and eighty-seven. The general healthfulness of Florida, particularly on its coast, is proverbial. The average annual mortality of the whole peninsula, from returns in this office, is found to be 2.06 per cent., while in the other divisions of the United States it is 3.05 per cent. In short, it may be asserted without fear of refutation, that Florida possesses a much more healthy, agreeable and salubrious climate than any other state or Territory in the Union."

#### AREA AND DISPOSITION OF LANDS.

Florida contains an area of 59,268 square miles, or 37,931,520 acres. Very large concessions of these lands have been made to the State by Congress for works of internal improvement. According to the record of the Land Office, there have been sold 1,832,431 acres; entered under the homestead law, 389,147 acres; granted for military services, 465,942 acres; officially approved under railroad grants, 1,760,468 acres; approved as lands given to the State, 10,901,207 acres; granted for internal improvements, 500,000 acres; granted for schools and universities, 1,000,663 acres; granted to individuals and companies; 52,114 acres; granted for deaf and dumb asylums, 20,954 acres; and confirmed private land claims, 3,784,303 acres. The quantity of land remaining unsold, 17,262,459 acres.

#### PRICES OF LAND, HOMESTEAD LANDS, &c.

Lands can be purchased in the State at from seventy-five cents to one hundred dollars per acre. Of course, where land commands the latter price, it is located near cities or towns, is highly improved, or is particularly desirable for orange culture. The State has nearly seven millions of acres of what are known as swamp lands. (See under article on soil.) These lands are intrinsically the most valuable in the State,

and can be purchased for seventy cents per acre, and can be had in quantities to suit the purchaser. In addition, the State has 220,000 acres of land known as internal improvement land, which can be bought at from \$1.25 to \$5.00 per acre. Then there are 600,000 acres of school and seminary land, subject to sale at \$1.25 per acre. The number of acres belonging to the General Government is over seventeen millions. This land can only be secured by homestead entry. It is nearly all first-class land, and as the immigrant can get possession of 160 acres by paying the sum of \$14.00 at the time of entry, it is exceedingly desirable to all whose available resources may be limited. Improved lands, that is, those having buildings and farms erected thereon, can be purchased in almost any part of the State at from \$2 to \$10 per acre, and there is a vast quantity of unimproved lands in the hands of individuals which are held at prices varying from fifty cents to \$10 per acre. The railroad lands, given by the State and the United States to aid in their construction, are held at \$1.00 to \$1.50 per acre.

Much of the finest lands in the State are in the hands of parties, or their heirs, who obtained them from the Spanish and English Governments. They are known as Spanish and English grants, the validity of the titles to which has been recognized by the Courts of the United States. The land covered by these grants, is held at from \$1 to \$10 per acre.

Thus it will be seen that land can be had at almost any price to suit the resources of the immigrant. There need be no drawback on this account, for in no other sections of the country can land be purchased at more reasonable rates.



## TAXATION, AND THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE STATE.

Of course these are topics of great importance. Florida is not exempt from taxes. There, as almost everywhere else, taxes are complained of as heavy, but a careful comparison between the rate of taxation there and in the other States of the Union, places the State in a very favorable light. From the most reliable statistics it is seen that the rate of taxation *per capita* is higher in thirty States of the Union than Florida. As a consequence, the share of the burden imposed by taxation, which falls to each individual, is lighter there than in most of the other States; and it is not lighter by a fraction of a dollar merely, but compared with three-fourths of the States it is a great deal lighter. For instance: The rate of taxation *per capita* in New York is seventeen dollars; in Connecticut, eleven; in New Hampshire, ten; in Rhode Island, nine; in Ohio, eight; in Iowa, seven; in Pennsylvania, six; in Kentucky and Missouri, four; while in Florida it is only two dollars and sixty cents.

According to the statistics of the State, the property-holder has the privilege of fixing the value of his property. The amount levied as the State tax for the past year was about thirteen mills on the dollar,—\$1.30 on every \$100.00. Besides this, property in the State is liable to a school and county tax of one cent on the dollar. This would make an aggregate tax of \$2.30 on every \$100.00. This compares favorably with other States.

Much has been said, and much has got abroad, which is false concerning the financial standing of Florida. The State has been represented as hopelessly bankrupt, without credit, and without a dollar in her treasury. This has been entirely the work of partisanship, and

has no foundation in fact. The following items from the late Comptroller's report, will exhibit the true financial condition of the State:

There are outstanding \$220,506.77 of Comptroller's warrants and Treasurer's certificates, bearing no interest, receivable for taxes, which will be absorbed by the taxes collected this year.

The act of 1873 authorized the issue of \$1,000,000 of bonds, bearing 6 per cent. gold interest, and maturing in thirty years, \$500,000 to be sold at not less than 80 cents net. Of these, the \$265,000 mentioned above have been sold, and 379 of the hypothecated bonds of 1868 and 1869 have been redeemed and cancelled, and the rest under hypothecation will be redeemed when presented.

There remains \$235,000 of the gold bonds to be sold. When this is accomplished, and the other \$500,000 of these bonds are applied to the redemption of the outstanding bonds named in the act, then the debt will be as follows:

Bonds of 1871,.....	\$350,000.
Bonds of 1873,.....	1,000,000.
School and seminary debt,	262,045.
Total,.....	\$1,612,045.

A tax of four mills upon the dollar is levied upon the real and personal property of the State to pay interest upon and form a sinking fund for the redemption of the bonds of 1873, and this tax can be applied to no other purpose. The valuation of taxable property being \$30,000,000, there will be levied a tax of \$120,000 for this purpose; allowing very liberally for delinquency. This will pay the interest and form a sinking fund of at least two per cent. upon the principal of the bonds, and at the present increase in improvements throughout the State, with the constant increase of taxable improvements, will

swell this amount so that the sinking fund will be sufficient to call in bonds before maturity.

The Comptroller is directed by law of 1871 to apportion annually among the several counties such an amount as will pay the interest and one per cent. of the principal of the bonds of 1871.

One hundred and thirty-two thousand dollars of the bonds known as "outstanding bonds," are held by the Indian Trust Funds in Washington, and the claims of the State of Florida against the United States during the Indian war will be sufficient to extinguish this amount at maturity.

In 1870 the State loaned its credit to the Jacksonville, Pensacola and Mobile Railroad Company by the issue of bonds to the amount of \$4,000,000, taking a first mortgage for a similar amount upon the road as security, of which amount about \$3,000,000 have been sold.

No other bonds in aid of railroads are outstanding, and no more will be issued, as an act entitled "An act relating to the indebtedness of the State" prohibits the further issuing of bonds for any purpose whatever.

There is no State on a sounder basis than Florida is at present, and with the high standard of the incoming population, it is probable that she may become in future a pattern for sister States.

#### COLORED LABOR.

To those who are seeking an opportunity to invest capital in the South, and who may have their eyes turned toward the advantages offered in Florida, the character of the labor available must be a matter of no little importance. As throughout most of the other Southern States, the labor on which the capitalist must depend for the development of his schemes is colored labor. In

spite of the slanders of his enemies, time and experience, which prove all things, have demonstrated that the South will have to rely on the colored man to supply the bone and sinew for the development of her resources. No other character of labor has yet been found to take the place of colored labor, and the numerous experiments which have been made in white labor of different nationalities, though hailed at first as giving great promise of success, have not met the expectations of the experimenters, but have in every instance operated to render more clear and incontestible the superiority of colored labor there and throughout the South. His habits, his nature, his temperament, his training, and the conditions of climate are all in favor of the colored man, and give him the advantage over all other competitors.

It has been said flippantly by politicians and detractors of the colored man that he will not work, that he is hopelessly lazy, and that his conception of freedom is exemption from toil. This has been said in a general way; but unfortunately for the truth of the reproach, his culminators have never been able to bring their assertions under the dominion of facts to prove that it is so. There are thousands of lazy white persons in the Southern States, who loaf about the corners of the streets, drinking whiskey and talking perpetually of enterprise coming down South—as if enterprise were something to be brought in a box and opened in their midst—and who are ever ready to declaim on the laziness of the "cussed niggers." But this charge has never assumed a more specific form, and is never made by any only known opponents of the political equality of the colored man. The fact is, that notwithstanding all the disadvantages he has had to contend with, the colored man has given since his emancipation the

most positive and surprising proof of his industry—an industry that is constantly increasing, and that has supplied him with comforts, enabled him to build churches, found charitable institutions of his own, and exhibits itself to-day in the vast bulk of the agricultural products of the South. Nothing was heard of laziness of the colored man before his emancipation. He was then made to work; but if he is lazy now, how is it that there has been no falling off in the productions of the South, but on the contrary a vast increase under many heads? Two of the pet-theories of the pro-slavery advocates during the war were the degeneracy of the colored man, upon gaining his freedom, into a lazy, good-for-nothing vagabond, and, as a necessary sequence, the extinction of his race. Are there any so dishonest or ignorant who will not say that never have theories received such a signal refutation by facts as these? I do not contend that the colored man is a model of industry, but I contend that he is not lazy, and that the true and highest interest of the South lies in fostering his assistance, and in the spirit of justice and humanity enabling him to work out the problem of his progress.

Where it is found that the colored man will not work, if pains are taken to inquire into the circumstances, it will very generally be found also that his unwillingness proceeds from a suspicion that his wages are precarious or a conviction that they are insufficient. There are few white laborers who would manifest great alacrity in going to work under such impressions. Where wages are in a fair degree remunerative and certain, the colored man is ready to do what he can do, and do it with all his might. How he nerves himself to such ill-paid labor as falls to his lot is a matter for surprise; and surprise be-

comes astonishment when we think of the results which he achieves out of his scanty earnings. He pays doctor's bills, provides clothing for himself and wife, supports the non-producing members of his family, gives to his church and to charitable institutions, and, in short, manifests a careful and exacting economy entirely at variance with habits of indolence or laziness. This thriftiness on the part of the colored man has been one of the greatest boons to the South. It has enabled him to exist on the smallest possible allowance; and at no time since the war have the resources of planters been much more than equal to discharge the minimum of expense, and must have fallen far short of meeting their obligations if the work done had been performed at the prices demanded for white labor. Colored labor is the cheapest, and therefore just the kind suited to the South, especially in its present condition. This fact must weight also with capitalists, for other things being equal, the returns from an investment must increase in proportion to the cheapness of the labor employed.

The day is not far distant when a proper value will be put on colored labor throughout the South, and when it will meet with a much better reward than at present. Instead of degenerating into a vagabond or a barbarian, according to the speculations of his detractors, the colored man is to-day fulfilling the expectations of his friends, surprising those who, wishing him well, had yet pitifully distrusted him in his new career, and is giving the very best answer to his culminators by his industry, self-reliance, and other great proofs of progress, against which no misrepresentation can long prevail.

#### THE LUMBER TRADE.

First in the list of Florida's productions I place lumber, as it holds at



present the first rank among the industries of the State, whether we consider the amount of capital involved, the value of the material produced, or the extent of the resources from which it is drawn. It can be asserted with confidence that over no other State in the Union is valuable timber so extensively and uniformly distributed, and ere long, the lumber business of that State, without the slightest doubt, will rival in extent that of any other. Within the last few years the manufacture of lumber has received an enormous impetus in that State, consequent upon a more thorough knowledge and recognition of her vast timber resources, and now the trade assumes gigantic proportions, with an almost unlimited power of expansion. When any one contemplates, in the light of knowledge, the astonishing wealth of that State in timber, the question at once arises: Why has it remained so long almost untouched, and less favored portions of the country sought after for the supply of lumber? Hitherto, nearly all the yellow-pine flooring consumed in the great cities of the North has been obtained from South and North Carolina. But at no time in their history have these States contained a tithe of the pine lumber of superior quality to be found in Florida. It is by no means an exaggeration when I put the estimate of heavy pine forests in the State as covering an area of thirty to forty thousand square miles. The resources of the State in this may be said to be almost inexhaustible, and the superior quality of the lumber is attested by the fact that it commands in market ten per cent. advance over that of any other section.

The highly deserved reputation of the pine lumber furnished by the forests of that State is attracting the attention of capitalists in all parts of the country; and besides those already established,

some of the most gigantic enterprises, designed to take advantage of the resources of the State in this, are in contemplation. Some idea of the present magnitude of the trade may be had from two facts, which we will state. The saw-mills in the vicinity of Jacksonville, and those at Ellaville on the line of the Jacksonville, Pensacola and Mobile Railroad, manufacture annually over one hundred million feet of lumber; while the mills in the vicinity of Pensacola manufacture close on to three hundred million superficial feet. The value of the lumber and timber exported at Pensacola annually is estimated at over \$3,000,000, and the amount of capital employed \$5,000,000. Recently very large mills have been erected at Apalachicola, which promise to do a business in a short time equal to that of either of the ports named, while on every navigable water-course and line of railroad, saw-mills are springing up with every prospect of yielding immense revenues to the proprietors. But notwithstanding these facts, the trade may be regarded as still in its infancy, for, by far the finest and most eligible lumbering sites remain unnoticed and untouched.

The finest pine forests are to be found in West Florida. Santa Rosa, Walton, Washington and Holmes Counties are covered with a growth of the best yellow-pine timber to be found on the continent. In 1867 Mr. Judah, a well known and highly competent engineer, was employed by the Jacksonville, Pensacola and Mobile Railroad Company to survey the route for the extension of their line of road from the Apalachicola River to Pensacola. Under their charter, the completion of the road to the latter point would entitle the company to 500,000 acres of United States lands and 100,000 acres of State lands, and



Mr. Judah, in estimating the resources of the road, of course includes the value of the timber on the 600,000 acres of land, and from his report we can get a very clear idea of this section in this respect. He says nearly the entire body of these lands is covered with a dense growth of yellow-pine timber of a quality unsurpassed by that of any other State in the Union. The principal lumber trade of this section is carried on from Santa Rosa County, (and in fact the principal lumber trade of Florida), nearly the entire population of which is engaged in and dependent upon this trade for their support. Some of the largest and finest saw-mills anywhere to be found in the United States are in operation in this county, the principal among which are located upon the Blackwater River, in the vicinity of the town of Milton, which is situated near the mouth of the Blackwater and at the head of the navigable waters of Pensacola Bay.

The amount of lumber shipped from this district is over 50,000,000 feet per annum, yielding upward of \$500,000 to the manufacturers, and costing the mill-owners, delivered in the log, upwards of \$40,000. The logs to supply their lumber are principally cut upon the margins of the Blackwater and Yellowwater Rivers and their tributaries. The cutters seldom go further than one and a half miles back from the margins of the rivers. The timber on the margins of the rivers is smaller than that growing further back.

These logs contain an average of about 200 feet when cut into lumber. The minimum limit of size is that the logs be large enough to square one foot. It is estimated that the logs at a distance of six to ten miles from the river will average about 250 B. M. feet.

Trees will furnish from two to three logs per tree, but for purposes of this

estimate, they are considered to yield two logs per tree. The mills generally buy their logs by contract, paying \$4 per M. feet for them delivered. Those mills cutting their own logs from lands owned by themselves find that it costs them about the same price. The timber on these lands seems inexhaustible. The average number of trees per acre fit for saw-logs is estimated at twenty. Now if you cut one tree per acre every year on the route of this road, it will afford an annual yield of 300,000,000 feet, or about 1,000,000 feet per day, which would tax this railroad to its utmost capacity, giving about 3,000 tons per day, or nearly 1,000,000 tons per year.

It is also the fact that timber makes anew again in from twenty to twenty-five years; or that after going over a body of timber, cutting off that large enough for saw-logs, leaving the smaller timber; this smaller timber will have grown sufficiently in from twenty to twenty-five years to yield another supply equal to the first.

Spar timber exists nowhere in greater abundance, or of better quality than upon these lands. Heavy European contracts have been filled from this locality, and contracts can be obtained to any extent that can be filled. Good spars bring from \$100 to \$300 each. Reliable parties who have traversed these lands have asserted that they have seen lands where twelve timber spars could be cut from an acre.

But besides the pine, great varieties of the most valuable timber are to be found distributed all over the State, and capable of being worked up and put upon the market with highly remunerative results. The live and water-oaks of the State have a world-wide reputation, and though the demand of ship-building throughout the entire country

and in many parts of Europe have for many years been supplied from the forests of that State, its resources in this are apparently untouched. The cedar swamps of Florida are at the present time supplying most of the pencil manufactories of this continent, and the demand is greater than the amount brought into market; while the immense quantities of cypress to be found scattered all over the peninsula promise to furnish the most desirable railroad ties that can be found. Then, for the manufacture of furniture, sashes, blinds, wagons and woodenware of every description, there is an unlimited amount of red bay, cherry, white oak, ash, birch, hickory, gum, elm, and a number of other equally valuable species of timber. No other State is as well timbered as Florida, and nowhere else can the lumberman look for an opportunity to invest capital with as fair prospects of realizing a fortune.

#### AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE.

There is no State in the Union with resources so varied; none presenting such a field for new and promising enterprise. Competition is possible with the sea-islands in oranges, bananas and other fruits, and with New York and Michigan in apples and other fruits on the tablelands of the Alleghanies. More than half the value of all cotton exports is paid for imports of sugar, which could and all should be grown in that State. The demand of the world for oils—cotton, rape, Palma Christi and many other oils—is large, and prices are remunerative, and this State is peculiarly adapted to their production. A million pounds of cheese, to compete with an equal quantity in New York without danger of glutting the market, could be made from grass of the glades that grow on lands costing one-twentieth the value of Empire State pastures. Even the

forest lands—certainly those of the coast belt—are covered with wild grass, only partly utilized, which, in connection with the herbage of the prairie sections, are worth, in flesh and wool, at a meagre estimate half of the cotton crop. The soil and climate of Florida, taking the different portions of the State into consideration, will produce abundant crops of almost every variety of the vegetable kingdom raised throughout the world, but the principal crops are sugar-corn, corn, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, oranges and lemons. Of course, garden truck can not be excelled, and in most instances a second crop can be raised the same year.

With the introduction of improved agricultural machinery, and well-directed and persistent labor, this is a large field for agricultural industry.

#### SOUTHERN MANUFACTURING.

I have hitherto spoken only of agricultural industry. The suggestions relative to the necessity of other productive industries in the West apply with augmented force to the South. While the population engaged in them ranges from fourteen per cent. in Iowa to twenty-four in Ohio, it runs from three per cent. in Mississippi to six per cent. in Georgia. The intelligent planter of Georgia knows perfectly well, by the test of local experience, that the manufacture of cotton in his State is far more remunerative than the same business in Massachusetts, not only on account of saving freight and commission both on raw material and manufactured goods, but in the great abundance and cheapness of labor. It might be considered a fair division of the crop, and certainly a generous one on the part of the South, to keep one-third for home manufacture, to send a third to the North for the manufacture of finer goods, and the remaining third to

Europe. This would insure a steady and imperative demand, and a great enlargement of net profits. If they could do this without a tariff, they can afford to let the tariff slide; if not, far better for twenty years a tariff utterly prohibiting of all cottons than to forego so great an opportunity to make the country rich and prosperous beyond its present imaginings.

There is no good reason why Virginia should not equal Pennsylvania in manufacturing and mining productions, as she ever does in resources of mine and forest. There is no sufficient cause why 25 per cent. of the people of Pennsylvania should produce in agriculture a value of \$52 annually for each inhabitant of the State, while 59 per cent. of the people of Virginia should only divide \$42 per head of total population. The influence of home markets on prices, with the reflex influence of prices on fertilization and culture, is sufficient to answer for all this difference.

This path of progress has been equally open to all; laws supposed to favor a diversified industry have been applicable to all States alike; the best water-power and the cheapest coal are in the States that make no extensive use of either; milder climates and superior facilities for cheap transportation have furnished advantages that have not been transmitted into net profits; and yet such communities, daily inflicting irreparable injuries upon themselves by neglecting the gifts of Providence and spurning the labor of man, are wont to deem themselves injured by the prosperity flowing from superior industry and practical political economy.

It is with no purpose of instituting invidious comparisons that these references are made to neglected opportunities of agricultural or manufacturing development. The convulsions and de-

vastations of war; the civil disturbances and State burdens which followed; the climate disability which modifies performance of exacting labors; the paucity of artisans skilled by long experience for direction in new enterprises; all these and many other obstructions in untried paths of industry conspire to hinder progress in converting the wonderful abundance of nature's wealth to the uses and enrichment of man. Considering these difficulties as they really exist, it is marvelous that so much has been accomplished complimentary to the Spirit and industry, and honorable to the people of the South. Yet I maintain that this ideal of possible accomplishment, undoubtedly to be fulfilled in the future, is not too high. The rich beneficence of the climate in the variety and rare value of productions which it renders possible more than compensates for its disadvantages; and the greatest boon of these new industries will be the relief afforded from severer labor of primitive industry and a supply of congenial and profitable occupation in accordance with the strength, the tastes, and peculiar capacities of all.

It has been said disparagingly that Florida can never become the scene of diversified industrial activity, owing to the absence of mineral wealth and manufacturing opportunities, and that, as a consequence, it can never rise to the same plane of wealth and prosperity with those States favored in these particulars. To a superficial observer this might appear true, but it is in reality a great mistake. In the absence of any geological survey, the mineral wealth of the State is unknown. It is possible, however, that the western portion may yet be found rich in carboniferous deposits, and may dispute with Alabama the possession of those immense beds of coal which geological science has pointed



out as lying within her borders. Be this as it may, I know of no valuable metaliferous or mineral deposits there, and such deposits have never entered into any calculation of the natural wealth of Florida. She has, however, in the extensive pine forests which clothe her State, mines of wealth as valuable and far more accessible than that of most of the States of the Union.

#### NAVAL STORES.

It will be readily seen that a State having such an immense area in pine forests as Florida, offers opportunities for the production of naval stores that are unsurpassed. This important industry, which embraces the production of turpentine, resin, pitch and tar, has, like many other mines of wealth in the State, remained, until recently, undeveloped, but to-day the State takes the lead in the production of turpentine and resin. Many who have been engaged in this industry in other parts of the country have discovered the advantages that State offers, and have transferred thither their capital and energy. The pine trees of that State are much richer in material for the production of turpentine and resin than those of North and South Carolina, and owing to the continuance of warm weather nearly throughout the year, they have a much larger running season. The trees can be tapped at least six weeks earlier than those of the Carolinas. One hand can take care of twelve thousand boxes, which are said to be a crop, and will yield fifty barrels spirits of turpentine and two hundred of resin.

I do not here propose to enter into statistical details, but will remark that in the manufacture of turpentine in North Carolina, an annual rental of \$120 to \$240 per crop of 12,000 boxes is paid, according to the distance from means of transportation. On the other

hand, in Florida, lands averaging a crop of 12,000 boxes to every 200 acres, are to be secured, on river or railway, for the low price of 50 to 70 cents per acre. Timbered lands in Michigan are now worth from \$10 to \$100 per acre, which, ten years ago were selling, under the Graduation Laws of the United States, at 25 to 75 cents. They were regarded then as almost valueless, and were trespassed upon just as the Florida pine lands are now. The same history of the appreciation of forest lands will unquestionably, sooner or later, be repeated in this State.

#### PRESENT IMMIGRATION.

The past few years have been marked by the commencement in a new era in the history of this State, in the unexampled influx of population which has taken place. The means for ascertaining the exact number of new settlers is not at hand: but I am in possession of sufficient data to be able to state that the accessions of wealth and population have been greater during the past year than in any three years previous; and the consequence is a very perceptible effect on the material property of the State.

This influx of immigrants has been more apparent in the eastern portion of the State, and is seen in the extraordinary advance in the prices of lands; in the extensive purchases that have been made for the purposes of tropical fruit culture; in the springing up of new and enterprising settlements, and the spirit of life and activity which is observable throughout regions where solitude has hitherto reigned supreme.

There is, perhaps, no State in the Union about which there is so much inquiry at present as Florida. Owing to the financial troubles during the past few years, a great many of the new States of the West have been flooded



with people seeking to retrieve their fortunes; and this, together with the suspension of work in public improvements, the protracted seasons of drought, and the grasshopper plague has told disastrously upon the people of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and Idaho; and the eyes of thousands there are turned earnestly toward the State as the best solution of their difficulties. Besides this, the thousands who are becoming poorer yearly in the North for want of successful employment, together with numbers who are thoroughly disgusted with the slush and mud of intolerable winters, all see in the future of Florida what they find impossible to attain elsewhere. In fact, a spirit of inquiry has been excited which will result in an immediate future of prosperity to the State.

There is one very desirable feature connected with the immigration of the past year, and that is, it has been voluntary, and the settlers have brought with them a far larger share of wealth than is usually found with the immigrants to other States. They have not been induced to cast their lot in Florida through the instrumentality of selfish immigrant agencies, land speculators or interested railroad corporations, but have sought homes there after a fair investigation and candid consideration of the superior advantages offered by that State. Such a class, undoubtedly, contribute more to the advancement of a State than any other. They bring with them not only wealth, but power, and soon become prosperous and prominent members of society.

To have a more thorough view of the State, I will now give an outline history or description of the different counties, making a condensed delineation of each, and as Leon leads in importance, we will give it the first in rank of the Northern counties, taking the other counties in order.

#### LEON COUNTY.

I think I may safely say, that this county, taking everything into consideration, is unsurpassed by any in the State. The population of the County is about 15,000. It contains an area of about 936 square miles, and is bounded on the north by Thomas County, Georgia, on the east by Jefferson County, Florida, and on the south by Wakulla County (where its southern boundary is from ten to fifteen miles from the Gulf coast), and on the west by Ocklockonee River, which separates it from Liberty and Gadsden Counties. Tallahassee, the Capitol of the State, is the county seat, and has a population of about 3,000. It is beautifully located, occupying the top and slope of a very high hill, and its commanding position, the number of large live oaks stretching abroad their strong arms in every direction over its public squares and scattered here and there in the streets, the tall and stately magnolias in the suburbs and everywhere in sight, give it an appearance not only pleasing, but decidedly picturesque. The gardens are ornamented with lemon and orange trees,—bananas spread their broad foliage to the view in many places, and at any and every season of the year some beauty, in the shape of bud, leaf or blossom, greets the eye. The atmosphere is loaded with the perfume of a thousand flowers, and at every instant the ear is delighted with the musical voices of unnumbered mocking-birds as they discourse their music from every garden.

The city, in the main, is well built. The stores, mostly on the main street, are constructed of brick, with slate or tin roofs; they are, as a general thing, very large and well arranged for the purposes of trade. The private residences—some of brick, and some frame—are generally of a fair and neat ap-

pearance, while many are of magnificent proportions and finished in the very best of style. There is one hotel, and several private boarding houses in the place. There are six churches, three livery stables, two bookstores, quite a number of dry-goods and grocery stores, and shops of various kinds, male and female schools, and last though not least, two newspapers.

The society of the place is excellent. The cost of living reasonable, and the markets well supplied. In short, I know of no more agreeable place to spend a winter or to locate for life.

The climate of Leon County, although it is not tropical, is mild and pleasant in winter. Although there is frequently frost, and ice occasionally, yet it is rare for the thermometer to go below 40° Fahrenheit, and then only for a short time, while one would feel comfortable in summer clothing at least one half of the winter, and in summer the thermometer rarely indicates a greater heat than 96°, and the average is about 90°. This heat is tempered by the almost constant sea-breeze, the influence of which is distinctly felt. The nights are invariably pleasant, and even in the hottest part of the season some covering is generally necessary in sleeping. The healthfulness of the county is rather good, but the regular diseases of more northern climates are found here, such as intermittent and remittent fevers, in summer and fall, and pneumonia and rheumatism in winter and spring, but there is no great fatality attending them. On the other hand, those laboring under lung diseases, etc., from the North, are frequently entirely restored.

The surface of the county is varied. Most of the northern half is elevated, gently undulating, and from some of the hilltops beautiful views may be enjoyed. South of Tallahassee most of the country

is level, though high and dry. Dotted over the surface are many beautiful lakes, some of which are so extensive as to claim a place on the map, such as lakes Lafayette, Jackson, Iamonia, and Miccosukie. They all abound in the most delicious fish, are surrounded by lovely forests, and the most fertile lands. Indeed, they form such a beautiful feature that I do not think it would be out of place to attempt a description of one of them, and without asserting that it is the most beautiful, I select Lake Miccosukie for my purpose. Lake Miccosukie is nineteen miles northeast from Tallahassee, its length is about fifteen miles, and from three-fourths of a mile to four miles in width. It has two main sources or heads, the one coming from Thomas County, Georgia, called Ward's Creek, empties into the lake at its widest part, and the other, Dry Creek, which flows from the west and empties into what is known as the head of the lake. It widens from this point gradually for half a mile, where it is three-quarters of a mile wide, and forms on the southern side a basin, circular in form and very deep, say from seventy to one hundred feet, while the northern side is shallow, and continues to widen until it reaches the confluence of Ward's Creek, where the lake is full four miles wide. Around three-fourths of the extent of this basin stands a most beautiful and magnificent growth of trees, among which may be seen the walnut, red bay or Florida mahogany, the tall and graceful ash, the red, white, water, Spanish, and live oaks, the beach, the wild cherry, the olive or mock orange, the hickory, and last the stately magnolia, towering above all, a thing of beauty at all seasons, covered as it is at all times with a rich foliage of large, dark green, shining leaves from eight to twelve inches in length, and in May, June and July

loading the atmosphere with the delicate perfume of its large white flowers, which expand to eight inches or more. Some of these beautiful trees are festooned with wild grape vines, others with clematis, yellow jasmine, woodbine, and trumpet flowers, while at their roots may be seen the *sanguinaria canadensis*, the *spigelia*, turkeyberry, daisies, primroses, violets, and other unnamed but delicate and pretty little flowers peeping out from among a variety of grasses, which send up their bolder artificial-looking blossoms. The growth is not fully described till we mention, as between these towering trees and the modest flowers at their feet, the shrubbery "in medio;" the sparkle-berry with its beautiful white drooping bell, the wild plum with its feathery bloom, the dogwood with its staring white blossoms, the red-bud and the old-man's-beard with its long, white fringe. The long, sombre-looking gray moss, which is pendant from every limb, without detracting from the beauty, serves to tone down the otherwise gay and brilliant appearance of the scene, and renders it if possible even more attractive. The banks on which this most beautiful and variegated growth is found are precipitous and high, at some points rising from the water's edge as boldly and precipitously as a rock to the height of from ten to forty feet, at others looking as if they had been graded, one grade rising above the other to the height of 100 feet. This is what is known as the "Bluff" of the lake; at the northwest of the bluff, where, around a shelving point, the water from the "Head" sweeps into the basin, there is an uninterrupted view of several miles due east to where it is ended by the curve of the lake as it goes southeast. In this direction it goes on seven or eight miles farther, becoming more and more contracted till, forming a bold creek, it empties itself into the

earth by means of a lime sink and thus loses itself to view, but perhaps to show its waters in the light of open day again where the St. Mark's, a full-grown river, rises from the earth without tributary of any kind from the surface. A radius of one mile from this sink will reach a circle in which is included Long Pond Sink coming from west southwest, Black Creek Sink from south southwest, and Bailey's Creek Sink, from east southeast. Thus four running streams coming from different directions sink near the same spot. From the vicinity of these sinks there is a valley running in the general direction of the head of the St. Marks, and that river rises from the earth, runs sluggishly for some miles, sinks, forming a natural bridge, and rising again flows uninterruptedly to the Gulf. Thus making it probable that Lake Miccosukie is the principal head of the St. Marks River. Few more romantic spots are to be found anywhere than the "Bluff" of Miccosukie Lake. Above, beneath, and all around is beautiful. The merry month of May brings together the neighbors at this delightful spot to enjoy their picnics, and scarcely a day passes that does not witness a merry gathering, large or small, to enjoy the scene, the fishing, and each other's society. In winter innumerable flocks of wild ducks, brent, and sometimes geese, sport upon the broad bosom of the lake, while in summer its surface, where shallow, is covered by maiden cane, flag and bonnets, with their broad white flowers, from eight to ten inches in diameter, floating on the water. Corn and cotton fields of large dimensions and unsurpassed fertility surround it on every side, all elevated, forming high hills "with gentle slopes and groves between." So Lake Miccosukie, whether you view it as a sheet of water or turn your gaze upon the beauty and



loveliness of its banks, or with a more utilitarian intent survey its surrounding lands, challenge your admiration and justly claims a favorable notice. Besides the lakes mentioned already, there are many others, all abounding in fish; while throughout the county may be seen many beautiful little streams furnishing ample water for stock.

The soil of Leon County is varied. In the northern half of the county, as a general thing, the soil is a sandy loam based upon red clay, and is very productive. In the southern half most of the soil is sandy and deep to clay, which is of a pale yellow color; and some of the soil is quite productive. There are all varieties of soil, however, throughout the county, and a less proportion of really poor than any other county in the State.

The productions of the county are numerous, but the great staple and principal source of income is cotton. This plant grows well even on the poorer soil within the county if well cultivated. Corn, sugar-cane, sorghum, rice, oats, rye, barley, castor-oil bean, peanuts, Cuba tobacco, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, all yield good crops, and garden vegetables in endless variety and to great perfection. Some persons would be uncharitable enough to doubt my veracity were I to mention the weights and measurements which some of these vegetables have attained, as for instance: A short beet 32 inches in circumference, a flat turnip 11 inches in diameter, radish 27 inches in length, 18 inches in circumference, and weighing  $6\frac{1}{4}$  pounds; a globe turnip weighing, with top, 14 pounds, and  $11\frac{1}{2}$  pounds without top or top root; a watermelon weighing 70 pounds; and yet I myself weighed and measured every one of them. Fruit, though much neglected, can be raised in great variety; the climate is rather too

cold for raising lemons and oranges profitably; almost every one, however, has orange trees in his garden, and some few have little groves of them; the crop is always uncertain; a cold snap when the trees are in bloom always injures and sometimes entirely destroys it. Bananas are also uncertain. But peaches, plums, figs, pomegranates, and all varieties of small fruit do well.

There are many kinds of valuable timber in the county, the principal of which are the oak, hickory, ash, magnolia, Florida mahogany, cherry, beach, cypress, poplar, and large quantities of the best yellow pine.

Leon county has easy access to a choice of markets. The Jacksonville, Pensacola and Mobile Railroad runs from east to west twenty-five miles through the county, dividing it almost equally. The Atlantic and Gulf Railroad, from Savannah to Bainbridge, Georgia, runs nearly parallel with the northern line of the county, and distant from ten to twelve miles. The Tallahassee Railroad runs southeast from Tallahassee to the coast at St. Marks. Next in importance is

#### JEFFERSON COUNTY.

This county occupies a central position in the tier of counties known as Middle Florida. Chief among its unrivalled attractions is its mild and delightful climate, the variety, magnificence and value of its timber, the fertility of its soil, its accessibility to markets, its abundance of pure water, its extreme healthfulness, and lastly the cheapness of its lands.

Jefferson County is bounded on the north by the State of Georgia, on the south by the Gulf of Mexico, on the east by Madison County, and on the west by the County of Leon, and contains nearly 600 square miles. The face of the county, beginning at the Georgia



line and extending south a distance of twenty miles, is beautifully undulating, intersected throughout with branches or streams of water, fed by springs that seldom fail, and dotted here and there with lovely and picturesque lakes. Large scopes of country are to be found covered with forests of yellow pine, and upon the lakes and rivers contiguous to them are, in great variety and abundance, the white, red, water, and the statey live oak, also the hickory, the ash, the wild cherry, poplar, green, red bay, walnut, beech, and the magnificent and evergreen magnolia.

About twelve miles from the Gulf coast the surface of the county is level, and known as the flat-woods. The growth on these lands is mainly pine; the lands are not well adapted to cotton, but furnish fine ranges for stock, hogs, cattle and sheep, and are famous as hunting and fishing grounds. Deer and wild turkey are plentiful, and small game and fish in abundance; in fact, it is the paradise of the huntsman and fisherman.

The soil is varied. In the upper and middle portions of the county, it is highly productive. With a fine rolling country, adapted to the production of almost every crop, clear running streams, and in fact every facility desirable for first-class farming, and withal a fine pasture land. The pine lands, while not so fertile naturally as the lands upon the lakes and rivers, are perhaps as desirable to the immigrant, as they are susceptible of high improvement at very little expense, and are more easily cleared for cultivation.

Cotton is the staple crop, and upon which the inhabitants mainly rely for ready cash, although corn, sugarcane, oats, rice, etc., yield abundantly. In fact the productions of the county are exceedingly various and valuable.

As to fruit-growing, what is stated in regard to Leon County is equally applicable here.

Jefferson County, in point of healthfulness, take it the year round, "through summer's heat and winter's cold," will compare favorably with any country in the world.

Land can be purchased in this county at low rates. But a small fraction of the land in the county is held by the Government; being very productive, it was eagerly sought after, and well nigh all settled up at an early day. Prior to the late war it was owned, in most part, in large bodies by men of wealth and the owners of slaves. The greater portion of it was then in a high state of cultivation. But things have undergone a change. Owing to a want of capital, the present owners are unable to cultivate only a portion of these lands; hence a greater number of acres may be considered in market, and can be had at moderate prices. Plantations, that under a proper system of cultivation would produce 400 pounds of lint cotton per acre (worth \$50,000) can now be bought in lots of forty acres or more, at from \$4 to \$8 per acre, and this on good time; for cash more advantageous bargains can be had.

Instances have come under my observation in this county, where settlers have purchased farms of forty acres on several years time, but with one man's labor and a mule, have paid from the first year's crop for their farms and raised abundance besides to support their families well.

#### MADISON COUNTY.

Madison County is generally level—in some sections, however, it is rolling, and in others slightly undulating; but the majority of its lands are as level as a plain, and suited well for farming purposes. This county affords fine facil-

ities for settlements, and contains the first really rich lands for general farming west of the St. John's River in the northern counties.

Many large plantations, cultivated so flourishingly before the late war, and yielding largely of wealth to their owners, are now lying idle for want of capital to work them. I have no doubt, nay, I am sure, that the owners of these vast plantations, containing thousands of acres each, would sell on any fair terms to worthy persons who would feel disposed to go there as actual settlers. Any price a man may desire, from one dollar to ten, can purchase these lands. Forest lands can be bought, of course, for much less than the improved lands. An improved farm might be bought at such figures, as by skillful farming, to be able to pay for itself in one year. Intelligent, industrious settlers are sure of cordial welcome by the hospitable people of this county, and soon have everything necessary to make home comfortable.

Before the war about 12,000 bales was the annual exportation of cotton from this county, more than one-third of which was sea-island or the long staple variety.

The soil is very productive; a large portion very rich, with a loamy soil, or gray and black hammock land. The poorest quality of pine land, with a sandy soil and clay substratum or foundation in its natural state, will produce 600 pounds seed cotton per acre; while the rich oak or hammock lands, with gray, black, red or chocolate-colored soil, of which Madison has, perhaps, more than any other county in the State, will grow twenty or more bushels of corn or 1,000 pounds of cotton to the acre. Madison County is the commencement of the rich lands of Middle Florida, producing probably more corn, cot-

ton and other staple products than any other portion of the State.

The climate is delightful. Roses bloom and vegetables grow in the gardens throughout the entire winter, while the almost continual and refreshing breezes temper the warmth of summer.

The productions are varied. The orange and lemon, with a little care and trouble, may be plentifully raised for home use, but everything else that man desires can be produced in abundance. The staple products are corn, upland and sea-island cotton, sugar, syrup, or molasses, rye, oats, peas, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, peanuts, and garden vegetables of every description. Tobacco grows well here, but it is seldom planted.

This county is well timbered with all varieties of wood, and lumbering is extensive in some portions.

The Jacksonville, Pensacola and Mobile Railroad runs nearly through the centre of the county, giving an outlet both east and west for its productions.

The health of this county is generally good. There is as a general thing great regularity and evenness of temperature here, and it is not so productive of diseases common in Southern States. It is true there is sickness, but those of dangerous or malignant types are rare.

As to fruits, I can say that this is one of the finest counties for the culture of the different varieties of grapes. Peaches, figs, strawberries in profusion. As for watermelons, I couldn't do justice to the subject.

This county is as large as the State of Delaware. It is situated between the Suwannee and Aucilla Rivers; its boundary line on the north separates it from the State of Georgia; on the east the Withlacoochee and Suwannee Rivers divide it from Hamilton and Suwannee Counties, and on the south are the counties of Lafayette and Taylor, while

on the west is Jefferson County. It has an area of about 800 square miles, or 512,000 acres. Of this, over 240,000 acres are private lands, held by titles from the United States and State governments. The population is about 15,000.

Madison, the county seat, is quite a nice little village. It has a population of about 1,000; has ten or twelve stores, and its citizens are as kind and clever as can be found anywhere. There are other public places in the county at which considerable mercantile and other business is done. But the most important, thorough-going, go-ahead place in the county is Ellaville, in its eastern portion, at the confluence of the Withlacoochee and Suwannee Rivers. There are quite a number of saw-mills here, and one of the largest in the State, and the lumber trade is extensive. There are over five-hundred persons employed in these mills in the management of their various departments.

Politically this county, like the State, is Republican. Socially, the people are all that could be desired; courteous and clever, good neighbors, and hospitable in the extreme. As to the religious, moral and educational status of the county, it stands high. The villages and towns have churches of the different denominations, while the free-school system is liberally adopted.

#### GADSDEN COUNTY.

This county constitutes one of the subdivisions of the Middle District of Florida. It is bounded on the north by the line separating Georgia from Florida, on the west by Apalachicola River, on the south by Liberty County, and on the east by the Ocklockonee River.

The county seat is Quincy. The location of the town is quite elevated, and it enjoys a commanding view of the valley of the Attapulgas and its adjacent

hills, presenting a panorama of beauty seldom seen. For many years prior to the war there were sustained within the corporate limits of the town two flourishing high schools, male and female, which received a flattering patronage from hundreds of miles around. As a point for permanent residence there are few interior towns that present more pleasant social attractions. The church privileges are ample; business houses numerous, and well sustained from the surrounding country. It is located immediately on the line of railroad connecting the Apalachicola with the St. Johns River at Jacksonville, and with Fernandina and Savannah, Georgia, on the Atlantic. It also has direct railroad communication with St. Marks, on the Gulf of Mexico, the principal shipping point in the Middle District.

Gadsden County embraces a tract of country of an undulating surface, in strong contrast with other sections of the Southern States bordering on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, and in many localities it may be said to resemble very much the northern portion of Virginia. It abounds in innumerable springs of the purest free-stone water, and is intersected by a large number of clear, running streams, which afford ample facilities for the erection of grist and saw-mills, and other manufacturing machinery—in this respect Gadsden County will compare favorably with any section of the United States.

The soil is, for the most part, based upon strong red clay, which gives it great advantage in the retention of such manures and fertilizers as may be applied. The oak and hickory, and cultivable pine lands invariably have a substratum of clay lying from one to two feet beneath the surface. In the hammock lands the substratum of clay is more remote, but generally sufficiently



near to impart a proper consistency to the upper soil. In proportion to its area Gadsden contains as large an amount of cultivable land as any county in the State.

The forest growth is of very great variety, but the yellow and pitch pine, suitable for fencing and milling purposes, very largely preponderates. The pine forests afford fine summer pasturage, and the hammocks in winter.

Owing to the undulating surface of the county the lands were never very attractive to that class of immigrants known as large "cotton planters," and hence the county was settled by men of moderate means and of industrious and frugal habits. This circumstance has stamped upon its population more the character of "farmers" than of "planters." With this characteristic they have always produced their own supplies of provisions, and prior to the close of the war it was a matter of rare occurrence that either meat or bread was imported from abroad. The same spirit of independence is still observable in the tone and bearing of the agricultural population of the county, and though somewhat cramped in their present means, and suffering under the great change which so suddenly and unexpectedly occurred in their system of labor, it is a cheering augury that they are rapidly conforming to their altered circumstances, and fast returning to their former thrift. In a word, the soil, climate, and habits of the population combine all the elements of a successful farming community.

Among the staple products of the county are cotton and Cuba tobacco. Although all other farming products are extremely varied.

Peaches, apples, cherries, figs, oranges, and the smaller fruits or berries, such as strawberries and raspberries, are

cultivated to great perfection; and the dew and blackberries are in great abundance, wild in every part of the county. It would exhaust the entire catalogue to enumerate the kinds of vegetables grown here to the greatest perfection. There is not a month in the year in which the tables of the farmers are not supplied with an abundance of fresh vegetables. Cabbages weighing over twenty pounds to the head; tomatoes weighing two pounds each, and Irish potatoes weighing twenty-three ounces and averaging over 300 bushels to the acre give an idea of what is to be expected in this line.

Gadsden has always been esteemed one of the most healthy counties in the State. The undulating surface of the county prevents the accumulation of stagnant water, and hence is exempted from the miasmatic diseases usually prevalent in low latitudes.

Stock raising, bee husbandry and silk culture do well.

In consequence of the recent change in agricultural labor, most farmers find themselves with much more land than they can successfully cultivate. There are good opportunities for the purchase of divided farms, with good improvements, at figures to suit the purchaser.

#### WAKULLA COUNTY.

What has been said in regard to the last two counties, as to soil, products, etc., is equally applicable to Wakulla. This is called the banner sugar and sweet-potato county of the State; 4,000 pounds of sugar has been produced in one season from a single acre; of sweet-potatoes 415 bushels have been raised to a single acre. The traveler in passing over the county by rail from Tallahassee to St. Marks, or in the saddle from Tallahassee to Crawfordville, or over any of the public roads of the county, would not be very favorably



impressed with the fertility of the soil, nor the monotonous smoothness of the surface. The hammocks are very thickly timbered, the trees are large, the shrubbery is dense, and it requires much labor to open roads through them; and those whose province it is to locate public roads studiously avoid large hammocks, and the public roads are, therefore, mainly opened through the pine woods and upon the poorest land; and the wayfarer has no knowledge of the vast and various resources of the county; of its superabundant and magnificent timber and alluvial soil. The soil of much of the pine lands is very productive, the scrub, and oak, and hickory is better, and of many of the large hammocks it is wonderfully prolific; it is deep and dark, loose and loamy, and well adapted to every variety of crops or vegetables. Under proper cultivation the productions of corn, cotton and sweet-potatoes would be prodigious.

The prices of land in this county, like the majority of those of the State, is exceedingly difficult to come at anything like a standard rate, as there is yet very little demand and very few sales; but I believe it will average from seventy-five cents to five dollars per acre.

The procurement of salt was a question of momentous magnitude during the late war, and hundreds of salt-works were erected upon the "salt-flats" along the sea-shore within the limits of Wakulla, and from which thousands of bushels of salt were daily manufactured.

With desirable homesteads at unprecedentedly low prices, a productive soil, a healthy and delightful climate, the Gulf nearly at their doors, and from which can be obtained supplies of fish, oysters and salt; convenience to markets; schools and churches in almost every neighborhood, and an encouraging wel-

come from hospitable people, Wakulla compares favorably with other counties in Florida.

#### DUVAL COUNTY.

Duval county has for its boundaries the Atlantic ocean on the east, Nassau County on the north, Baker County on the west, and Clay and St. John's Counties on the south. It contains about 500,000 acres of tillable land, on which can be grown all the productions of Northern Florida. It excels, however, in its adaptation for the growth of all kinds of market vegetables, and will, undoubtedly, at no distant day, become a vast garden from whence the cities of the North and Atlantic coast will obtain their supplies of early vegetables. It is more advantageously situated with respect to facilities for communication than any other county of the State at the present time; and has an abundance of means at hand for the disposition of its products. The St. John's River, with its multitudinous creeks and ramifications, occupies nearly one-tenth of the surface of the county. Its waters are navigable for vessels of all sizes, and the connection of the county with the markets of Savannah, Charleston and New York is, therefore, of a close and intimate character.

Jacksonville is the chief point of interest in Duval County; it is situated on the St. John's River, about twenty-five miles from its mouth. It is the most populous city in the State, and in wealth, commerce and industry, is rapidly taking a front position among the cities of the Atlantic seaboard.

The principal business at present in this county, is the manufacture of lumber. There are eight to a dozen steam saw-mills scattered up and down the river in the space of four or five miles. These manufacture about 50,000,000 feet of lumber annually.

Real estate is low now, but the tendency is upward, and with a prosperous country above, it must continue to advance under the present rapid and healthy growth of the State.

#### ESCAMBIA COUNTY.

The surface of the land in this county is undulating, the central portion rising into high ridges, sometimes reaching an elevation of from 150 to 200 feet above the level of the sea. The soil is what is generally characteristic of "pine woods"; it is quite sandy along the coast, becoming less and less so as you advance into the interior, and generally resting upon a subsoil of farinaceous clay, easily cultivated, and susceptible of being rendered highly productive—peaches, nectarines, apricots, figs, plums, and grapes requiring but little attention, and still bearing bountifully, and being entirely exempt from disease or worm. All the grasses, including clover, timothy, blue grass and Bermuda, do well in different portions of the county, yielding good crops. With regard to other crops, the yield is abundant. Garden vegetables of every description can be produced abundantly.

The greater bulk of the people of this county are engaged in some capacity connected with the lumber trade, or else are upon the waters, so that the soil and farm industry in general are comparatively neglected. The few, therefore, who do cultivate the soil and engage in the various pursuits incident to it, find a ready home market, and realize the best of profits as a reward for their industry.

Pensacola is the port of entry for the county, as well as for almost the entire portion of West Florida, and is the county seat of Escambia. It has a population of 4,000, while the population of the county is about 6,000.

This county is well timbered with all the varieties of growth, and lumbering is extensively carried on.

The climate of this part of Florida is unequalled for its mildness and salubrity, and is rapidly being sought by invalids from the Northern States. This county has one great want, and that is agricultural labor. This tends to keep back the consequent enhancement in value of lands which is inevitable when farming is a ruling interest. Thousands of acres which should be blooming with life and beauty, are now lying idle and neglected, and from this cause, after being denuded of their timber, are considered by their owners scarcely worth the tax assessed upon them.

#### SANTA ROSA COUNTY

Is bounded by Walton County on the east, Escambia on the west, by Alabama on the north, and the Gulf on the south. The Blackwater and Escambia are the principal rivers. The county has an area of about 1,140 square miles. The population of the county is about 6,000. The population has increased over fifty per cent. since the close of the war.

The surface is slightly undulating, and broken by numerous small streams and rivers. The soil is light but very productive, particularly the lands known as swamp lands. The climate is exceedingly equable and healthy, and epidemics are unknown in the county.

Corn, sugar-cane, potatoes, and all the garden vegetables are raised abundantly. Every variety of fruit does well, and under cultivation yield extensively.

There are immense quantities of every variety of timber throughout the county, such as pine, juniper, cypress, cedar, live and water oak, cherry, bay and magnolia.

The average price of land is \$1.25 for

unimproved, and from \$4 to \$10 for improved.

Milton and Bagdad offer a convenient and ready market for all country produce, and the numerous steam vessels plying between these places and Pensacola, New Orleans and other ports on the Gulf, afford every facility for getting produce to market.

Stock raising is carried on to some extent in this county. Sheep do exceedingly well.

#### SUWANNEE COUNTY.

The general topography of Suwannee County is rolling in the south and north and approaching to hilly in the middle, with but little low or swampy land. The quality of the soil is mostly sandy; sand being a part of nearly all the land in the county. The soil is light, easily cultivated, and very much improved by proper fertilizing. There is a very small amount of land in the county, but that with proper attention would not repay labor.

The Suwannee River is the boundary line of the county from the northeast to the southeast corner, a distance of over 100 miles. The J., P. and M. Railroad enters the county at Welborn, and runs across the county to the Suwannee River at Ellaville. The A. and G. Railroad enters the county on the north side and runs to Live Oak, connecting with the J., P. and M. Railroad to Jacksonville on the east and Tallahassee on the west.

Corn and cotton are the principal crops, but all other varieties are raised abundantly in different parts of the county. The raising of cattle, horses, hogs and mules is receiving a great deal of attention.

There is a rapid advance in fruit culture in this county, even oranges do well. There are numbers of vineyards of the Scuppernogg grape, and quite a large amount of wine made yearly.

In my opinion there is no place in Florida that a poor man, or a man with moderate means, can do better than in this county. Land-holders seem willing to divide their large farms with newcomers, and at the most reasonable rates. The people are hospitable. Any person going there, that will work, buy a home and become one of the people, make his interest the interest of all, will find every kindness and assistance requisite to success and happiness.

The climate is delightful. The nights are beautifully cool, and the hard-working farmer can enjoy sweet sleep and rest. The healthfulness could not be better.

The county is well timbered with all varieties, and small lakes of pure water and running streams on almost every plantation for stock and farm purposes—in fact there are few parts of the State better supplied with pure, clear water.

#### TAYLOR COUNTY.

Taylor County is as yet a frontier county, and has not had its resources developed, even in a primitive manner. The surface of the county is level, and presents a beautiful appearance to the traveler; is interspersed with small streams or creeks, which abound in fish. There is game in abundance, such as deer, bear, wild turkeys, etc.

The soil is rich and generous, and there is an abundance of as good hammock land here as in any other portion of the State. The climate is salubrious and genial.

This county has been a splendid range for cattle and hogs. Thousands of heads of cattle owned by non-residents constantly range this county, and are under the care of residents who are remunerated for overseeing stock, by owners, and the consequence has been that agriculture has been neglected. But this state of things is now in a measure broken, as new settlers are com-



ing in, and the people are turning their attention more to agriculture and the proper developement of the county, and a higher future is everywhere indicated.

As to products, grapes, etc., what has been said of Suwannee County is equally applicable here, but not to so great an extent, principally on account of the primitive nature of general improvements. But with fair cultivation there is no reason why the land of this county should not yield abundantly of the general products, fruit, etc., of the adjacent counties.

Wild pine land can be bought at from one to two dollars per acre according to location. Land with improvements is worth from two to five dollars per acre. But when I speak of improvements, the reader must not anticipate much, as the houses are all log-houses, and very sorry ones at that. The chief value of the improvements is in the cleared land. The improvements in this county compare very poorly, in a great many instances, with what the traveler meets in numerous other counties in the State.

This county is bounded on the north by Madison county, on the east by Lafayette County, on the south by the Gulf of Mexico, and on the west by Jefferson County. It has a coast line of 120 miles, indented by several bays and harbors, on which are some of the best fisheries along the coast of Florida.

The turpentine and lumber business of this county, at no distant day, is destined to be of vast proportions, and men of capital would make a good investment to buy lands for turpentine orchards in this county. But the strength of a county lays in the hardy yeomanry, and to such the county offers superior advantages. Here land is cheap, plenty, easy to clear, easy to cultivate, and gives a good yield; and there is good pasturage for stock raising.

With what has come under my immediate observation in other counties equally good, I can't see what is to prevent an industrious farmer from succeeding here, and in the course of a few years having a competency with all he wants around him.

#### NASSAU COUNTY.

Nassau County, in the northeastern corner of the State, contains about 700 square miles, including the island of Amelia; population, 4,500. Is bounded on the north and west by the St. Mary's River, on the east by the Atlantic, and on the south by the Nassau River and its tributaries. These natural water boundaries consist for one half of their extent of estuaries and streams navigable for ocean vessels. The Florida Railroad traverses its length nearly midway between these water courses. Accessibility to its natural resources is one of the leading features of this county. On its sea coast it has an excellent harbor, spacious enough to shelter the fleets of the United States. Its port, Fernandina, is a town of 2000 inhabitants. It is the shipping point for a large share of the products of the Gulf States. Steamers leave twice a week for Savannah and Charleston, and twice for the South; while it has daily connections per railroad with the Gulf coast, with Jacksonville, and the railroads leading into Georgia, and thence North and West. Sailing vessels in the lumber trade depart constantly for Northern ports, the West Indies, South America and Europe. From its insular position (Fernandina), fanned by constant sea-breezes, cool in summer and mild in winter, is desirable for residence, and offers to the far-seeing capitalist the chance for building up a widespread and lucrative trade; to the invalid in search of health, a mild and salubrious climate; and the pleasure-seeker will find in the chance for

boating and duck-shooting offered by her harbor, in the shell road and in her unrivalled beach, with its invigorating surf baths and its fifteen miles of smooth, unbroken race track, sufficient attraction for a lengthy stay. With a liberal policy pursued by those who control her destiny, Fernandina's future must be great and bright.

The soil of Nassau County varies from the light mulatto soils of the coast through all the intermediate gradations to the stiff clays and marls in the low lands of her rivers; and its range of productions is as varied as the soil. On Amelia Island, the edge of the mainland, and scattered along her rivers are soils of calcareous sand that are adapted for the finest qualities of long staple cotton, to the culture of the grape and olive, while the branch, fresh marsh and black rush lands attached to them are especially suitable for gardening. These lands are easily reclaimed, rich, moist, and close to shipping opportunities, so that the shipping of early vegetables to northern markets must soon form a considerable item in the list of profitable investments. In this connection I will call attention to the many fertile swamp lands near the coast, that have been drained and brought under partial cultivation before the war, but are now lying idle for want of capital and enterprise, such as the "Three Rivers," "O'Neal's Fields," the "Vaughn Tract," etc., and to the large abandoned rice plantations along the St. Mary's River, where a comparatively small outlay of capital would reclaim hundreds of acres of alluvial soil on a clay foundation, the very best for Irish and sweet potatoes, for forage and grain crops. The stiff clay soils of Thomas, Boggy, Funks, Mills, and Lafton, tributaries of the Nassau River, and of Little St. Mary's River, as well as the marl lands near Callahan, and

the big savanna on Cabbage Creek, are lands suitable for the cultivation of the sugar-cane, and in many instances a small capital laid out at the present time will purchase some of the most valuable lands.

The clay bluffs along the St. Marys River, and the so-called sand hills in the northwestern corner of the county, form a third distinct body of agricultural lands. The former, in detached groups, offer soils retentive of manures, and capable of producing in perfection all the products of the region, and there are pleasant residences on the banks of this remarkable stream, where sixty miles from the coast the tall masts of vessels drawing sixteen feet of water surprise the traveller as he approaches its banks, dense with the moss-fringed cypress and the towering pine. The latter, sand islands of an older formation among the marshes and lagoons that early surrounded them, and from which the present flat-woods arose, are the favorite choice for settlement of the herdsmen, who till the upland, manured by the somewhat antiquated system of cow-penning the herd that graze on the adjacent almost evergreen pastures of the flat woods. Both of these classes of lands are, best of all, adapted to the culture of the early peach, apple, pear and grape—samples of which, raised without system, care or culture, will astonish the northern tourist, two months in advance of the season he is accustomed to look for them, and of a quality that will compete with the best productions of the Middle States. And there is this deep, quiet river right at the door of the cultivator of these highly prized luxuries to convey them to the steamboat wharves in Fernandina. Besides this stream, that deserves much more of the attention of the incoming settlers than it has received heretofore, offers on its clay bluffs the

chances of locating further south than it is possible elsewhere, and on a deep outlet to the sea, brick-yards for the supply of the growing towns and Government works in Florida, and of the West India markets.

The balance of the lands of Nassau County are pine barrens, mostly sandy, and interspersed with numerous "bay-galls," cypress ponds, savannas, some of them marl-beds, all of them mines of muck, that best basis for all farm manures. The higher portion of these lands are cultivated by cow-penning, and yield a fair return in corn, sweet potatoes, cotton and sugar-cane; the lower portions furnish pasture for large herds of cattle. But it is in the natural growth in which rests the main wealth of this section. The yellow pine with which these flat woods are covered, furnishes a ready supply of ship and building material, and is an inexhaustible source for naval stores; while the extreme accessibility of every acre of land, makes these sources of wealth immediately available. To make an investment in such lands would not alone be profitable at first, but permanently so.

In proof of these assertions numerous instances can be shown where persons, recently starting there with a very limited capital, have amassed wealth in a few years, some by gardening, some by milling, some by logging, some with cattle raising, and others by the manufacture of naval stores.

Many of the lands described here can still be had from the United States under the Homestead Law. But by far the greater majority are held by the Florida Railroad and by the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund of the State.

#### COLUMBIA COUNTY.

This County, in geographical position, is advantageously and pleasantly located.

It is bounded on the north by the State of Georgia, on the west by Hamilton and Suwannee Counties, on the south by Alachua County, and on the east by Bradford and Baker Counties. A large portion of this county is comprised of pine lands, but of superior quality. There are many fine hammocks, which abound in timber of almost every variety. It contains many lakes, which abound in fish of superior quality.

This county contains an area of about 600 square miles, or about 380,000 acres; of this there are about 42,000 acres cleared and under cultivation. The soil is mostly level, of a fertile, dark, sandy loam, with a subsoil of clay, very easy to clear, and retains fertilizers when applied as well as any land. Land ranges in price according to the quality, etc., from one to twenty dollars per acre.

Lake City, the county site, is a town of about 1,500 inhabitants, situated near the center of the county, and is as healthy a location as can be found.

The industrial resources are cotton, corn, oats, wheat, rye, sugar-cane, potatoes, and all varieties of vegetables. Turpentine is extensively manufactured in some portions of the county. The timber business is not so extensively carried on as heretofore, but is an item of some importance.

All varieties of fruit do well in this county, even oranges. Grape culture is destined to become one of the leading industrial pursuits—all varieties are successful.

The population of the county is about 9,000, and settlers coming in are swelling the quota. Landholders are disposed to sell off portions of their farms on the most reasonable terms to settlers. Instances have come under my observation, where farmers have given alternate farms of forty acres to worthy settlers.



## CLAY COUNTY.

This County is bounded on the north by Duval, on the west by Bradford, on the east by St. Johns, on the south by Putnam County. The land is nearly all pine. There are small bodies of swamp and hammock lands along Black Creek and other streams which are very productive. Land can be purchased at from 50 cents to \$1 per acre. The St. Johns River flows along the eastern border of the county, the Black Creek is navigable for steamers to a point near the center of the county, and the railroad from Cedar Keys to Fernandina passes along the western border. Good access is had to market for all kinds of produce.

The county seat is at Green Cove Spring. It is situated on the St. Johns River, a short distance from Jacksonville.

Lands fertilized yield fairly to compensate labor; corn, cotton, sugar-cane, etc., doing well. Grapes, oranges, peaches, plums, and all the smaller varieties of fruit can be raised abundantly.

## HAMILTON COUNTY.

The people of Hamilton County are principally farmers. Their crops are remunerative in the extreme, and every variety of staple products are successful. Sixty bushels of corn per acre will give an idea of what has been raised in this county under fair fertilization. Almost every grade and quality of soil can be found.

Along the streams there is a considerable quantity of timber of almost every kind. On the Suwannee River alone there is enough to build a United States navy. The yellow pine is the most abundant timber, and is found almost all over the county.

Land can be bought at prices to suit purchasers. Many settlers are buying and paying by installments on long time.

The climate and health of this county can be boasted of. It is a great resort for invalids from the Northern cities.

Fruit of every variety does well. Although fruit raising is a new thing here, still it instances success wherever tried.

## LIBERTY AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES.

Liberty County is situated directly north of Franklin County, and adjoins Gadsden County toward the same point of the compass. Both counties are separated from Calhoun County on the north by the Apalachicola River, and from Leon and Wakulla Counties on the east by the Ocklochonee River. Liberty is very sparsely populated, and the inhabitants give very little attention to agriculture. It is an immense cattle range, but possesses as fine land as can be found in the State. The State has only about 600 acres of land for sale in this county, as almost the entire county belongs to what is known as the "Forbis Purchase." This land can be bought at from one to three dollars per acre.

Apalachicola, the county seat, situated at the mouth of the Apalachicola River, was, before the war, a point of great commercial interest. Within the last year some fine saw-mills were erected at Apalachicola, and are doing an immense business. The city is every way indicating a bright future. The population is about 2,000, and are all of the most industrious class. The oyster trade amounts to about \$50,000 annually.

Franklin County contains about 326,000 acres of land, of which 164,000 are improved. The principal products are sweet and Irish potatoes, vegetables of every variety, sugar-cane, etc. Fruits of all kinds, oranges, lemons, figs, grapes, etc.

Good fish and oysters all along the coast, and game of every kind in abundance.

The county is well timbered, and no county presents a finer field for lumbermen.

#### BAKER COUNTY.

This county is situated in the north-western portion of the State, being separated from Georgia on the north by the St. Marys River; it adjoins Nassau County on the east, Bradford on the south, and Columbia on the west. Its surface is generally level and overgrown with saw-palmetto and wire grass. It is one continuous forest of yellow and pitch pine and cypress.

The J., P. and M. Railroad passes through the center of the county from east to west, affording ample facilities for transportation of timber.

The manufacture of turpentine is a lucrative business in the county.

The soil is generally very productive, and the climate is peculiarly adapted to grape culture.

There is no healthier portion of the State than Baker County.

Fruits and vegetables grow well, and can be made very profitable.

#### BRADFORD COUNTY

Is bounded on the north by Baker, on the south by Alachua, on the west by Columbia, and on the east by Clay County. The railway from Fernandina to Cedar Keys passing through its southeastern end, gives transportation for timber and agricultural products. The surface is like Baker County. The pine forests are its greatest wealth, and the manufacture of naval stores is extensively carried on along the line of railroad.

The agricultural products of the county are similar to those of Alachua, Columbia and Baker.

Grapes, peaches, strawberries, etc., grow in great quantities, and their culture can be engaged in profitably. Land can be purchased at from 70 cents to \$5 per acre.

#### JACKSON COUNTY.

Jackson County is the gem of West Florida. It has within its boundaries the largest area of hammock land to be found in any county in the State, and offers inducements to the farmer, the fruit grower, the manufacturer, the lumberman, the tourist, and the invalid, which are not surpassed by those of any other section of the State.

In climate it is similar to that of the range of counties stretched along the northern portion of the State, and is salubrious and healthy.

Marina is the county seat, and is noted for the refinement and intelligence of its inhabitants. It is located near the center of the county. Greenwood is a thrifty village, nine miles north of Marina, and located in the center of a large area of fertile and productive lands. Campbellton is about eighteen miles north of Marina, and is a prosperous village. Neal's Landing, Port Jackson, Haywood's Landing, and Bellevue are on the Chattahoochee River, and are points for reception and transportation of freight, and are thriving places.

The soil is fertile, and every variety of produce yields bountifully. Oranges, grapes, lemons, peaches, figs, and in fact all varieties of fruit are prolific.

Land can be purchased at from \$2 to \$10 per acre; and hospitality is everywhere extended to the stranger.

#### WASHINGTON COUNTY.

The greater portion of the lands of this county are pine, and the surface is generally level. It constitutes an excellent range for cattle, and when cultivated yields well. It is well timbered and there are several saw-mills operated successfully in the county.

The greatest drawback to the county is the want of railroad transportation.

Fruits of all varieties and the different kinds of produce do well.

As to the people, they are hearty and hospitable, honest and industrious. The population of the county is about 1,000.

#### CALHOUN COUNTY.

This county is bounded on the north by Jackson, on the east by Gadsden, Liberty and Franklin, on the south by St. Joseph's Bay and the Gulf, and on the west by Washington County. The land is for the most part pine land, covered with a very heavy growth of yellow pine timber. Some of the most eligible mill sites are to be found in this county. The Apalachicola River running along its entire eastern border, offers every facility for the transportation of produce and timber to the Gulf coast. The population is very small, and the resources of the county are but little developed. Land can be purchased at from 75 cents to \$10 per acre. All the productions of Gadsden, Franklin and Liberty Counties can be grown in this.

#### WALTON AND HOLMES COUNTIES.

These counties lie between Santa Rosa and Washington Counties in the western part of the State, and partake largely of the characteristics of those counties. Their lands are principally pine, and their wealth is to be found in the timber with which they are covered. The Choctawhatchie Bay extends along the entire southern part of Walton, and presents some unsurpassed milling sites. The population of these counties is exceedingly small.

We will next introduce the reader to the counties of Central Florida.

#### ALACHUA COUNTY.

Geographically, this is the central county of the State. The population of the county is about 17,000. We find all varieties of soil and surface in this county, from the poorest pine to the richest hammock. There is direct com-

munication by rail with Cedar Keys on the Gulf, and Fernandina on the Atlantic, giving good outlets for shipping.

Cotton, corn, sugar-cane, rice, oats, etc., yield heavy crops. Grapes in every variety, also all fruits, as well as oranges are raised to perfection.

#### MARION COUNTY.

Marion County is situated in the central and narrowest part of the State. It is one of the largest, most fertile and productive counties in Florida. The Ochlawaha River passes nearly through its center, and is navigated by numbers of steamers.

Ocala, the county seat, is a growing town in the interior of the county.

Few counties in the State have a more varied soil. It contains fifty-two townships, making 1,872 square miles. Twelve hundred homesteads have been located in this county, by actual settlers, in the past few years.

The highness and dryness of this section of the State is remarkable, and it is almost needless to say that such a county is healthy in the extreme. There is very little wet or marshy land to be found in this county. The lands, both high and low, are well timbered.

The people of this county were slow in engaging in tropical fruit culture, but now Marion bids fair to be the largest fruit-growing county in this State. Oranges, pine-apples, lemons, bananas, etc., are produced in extreme excellence. Population, 16,000.

#### PUTNAM COUNTY.

The western portion of the county is undulating and interspersed with numerous lakes, which add variety and beauty to the scenery. The larger portion of this section consists of pine land, but there is also good hammock. Here are the cotton plantations of the olden time, some of them now successfully



cultivated, while others are lying idle. For cotton and general farming this is the richest and best part of the state. Nearer the St. John's River, the land is low, flat piney woods, valuable principally for its timber and as a feeding range for cattle. On the east side of the St. John's River the land is hammock, rising back into flat pine land.

Palatka, the county seat, is on the St. John's River, seventy-five miles south of Jacksonville. Population, 1,500. It is a thriving town, shipping large quantities of cotton, oranges, sugar, and other productions. It is a favorite resort for invalids.

Some of the finest orange groves in the State are in this county.

The price of land varies from 70 cts. to \$100 per acre. Improved farms in the western part of the county can be bought at \$10 per acre.

This county has the usual varieties of wood, and numbers of persons are engaged along the St. John's in the logging business.

Putnam County has an area of 900 square miles, of which about 15,000 acres are improved. Population of county about 4,500. As a whole it is as healthy as any other part of the State. Every agricultural production is raised in this county, besides numerous tropical fruits not matured in other counties farther north.

#### ST. JOHN'S COUNTY.

This county is bounded on the north by Duval County, on the south by Volusia, on the west by the St. John's River, which divides it from Clay and Putnam Counties, and on the east by the Atlantic Ocean. The soil is mostly sandy, and the bulk is of an inferior quality. There is a great deal of what is called "scrub land" in this county, and is scarcely available for agricultural purposes. The county for miles around

St. Augustine is made up almost entirely of this land.

St. Augustine is the chief point of interest. The city is fifteen miles distant from the St. John's River, with which it is connected by railroad.

Orange culture was the principal industry at one time in the history of the county. A grove of twenty-five or thirty trees in full bearing enabled the fortunate possessor to live without labor and in comparative affluence.

Market gardening can be made very profitable in St. John's County. The hotels and boarding-houses of St. Augustine are crowded with visitors during the winter, and a ready market is at hand for a much larger supply than is now furnished.

#### LAFAYETTE & LEVY COUNTIES.

What has been said concerning Alachua County is true of both these adjoining counties. Some of the finest hammock land in the State is to be found in Levy County. This land will yield, without any attempt at fertilization, 1,500 to 2,000 pounds of sugar per acre. It is all in the market and can be purchased at a very low figure.

The railroad from Fernandina passes through the centre of the county and terminates at Cedar Keys. The Suwannee River passes along its western boundary, separating it from Lafayette County, so that the products have a ready access to market. This is also true of Lafayette County. The Suwannee sweeps along its entire eastern border, separating it from Levy, Alachua and Suwannee Counties, and the Steinhatchee River divides it from Taylor County on the west. It has, besides, a Gulf coast of forty or fifty miles in extent.

#### VALUSIA COUNTY.

There is no county in the State offering greater inducements to the traveler

or permanent settler. The climate from November to May is a perpetual comingling of the Indian Summer of autumn and the balmiest days of spring. Most of the time there is a gentle breeze coming inland from the even-tempered waters of the Gulf Stream, or seaward from the pine forests and orange groves. The nights are pleasantly cool, sleep-inviting and refreshing. The dawn and sunrise open a scene of splendor and loveliness to the stranger's eye, and nature greets with a jubilee abandon of sound, in every pitch and variety, let loose from myriad throats of birds gathered from every clime. There is no county in the State, or on the Atlantic coast, where Nature has provided superior sources of natural beauty and enjoyment.

Fish of the finest quality and great variety crowd the waters. Oysters, excellent in flavor and size. Curlew, cranes, quails, turkeys, deer, bears, and other game, range under the pines, in the savannas, and through the dense hammocks, thrilling the sportsman with new excitement at every nook and turn.

A sea-beach, hard as a plank road, smooth and clean, where a walk or bath, or drive is always pleasant, invigorating and exciting.

The climate and soil are favorable to winter-gardening, which, properly conducted, will bring rich returns of fruits and vegetables for home consumption and foreign markets. Everywhere the soil and climate are warm enough for vigorous winter-growth. Pineapples, bananas, guavas and other tropical fruits mature, and oranges are raised in abundance and in the highest degree of superior excellence.

The lands of this county are variable like most others in the State, but the majority are rich and desirable. In many places the lands are rolling, then

drop off into valleys well sheltered, and adapted to orange and other fruit culture. Fertilizers are everywhere abundant and accessible, and with their use the lightest soils become extremely productive. The water is pure and good. Here can be seen men directly from the North, working in the field every summer day, enjoying perfect health. There are instances on record in which 4,000 pounds of sugar have been produced from a single acre in this county.

There are several thriving settlements and villages on its eastern border, among which we will name Port Orange, Daytona, New Smyrna and Halifax City. These are promising places, and will no doubt be the center of commercial interest as the State develops. This portion of the State is now attracting the attention of permanent settlers, and Valusia having desirable seaboard points and harbors, will develop more rapidly than the more inland counties. Any man who is willing to work, can make a good living, start an orange grove, and in a few years become independent in this county. I do not say this from mere speculation; but there are numerous instances here, where settlers have come to this county a few years back without anything, and by industry are to-day wealthy.

Halifax River, on the Atlantic coast, is a sheet of pure tidal water half a mile wide, extending from the inlet northward thirty-six miles, and navigable the whole distance. North of Port Orange the river is free from islands or marsh, bounded by shores clean and beautiful, from which, in many places, the mainlands gradually rise for a quarter of a mile, thus affording the most delightful location for residences and villages.

The Hillsborough River extends southward about thirty-five miles. It has the same advantages of inlet and

navigation throughout as Halifax, except that in some places its channel is less straight and its water a little more shallow.

Unimproved land can be had at from one to five dollars per acre. Private, improved lands can be purchased at from three to one hundred dollars per acre, according to improvements, etc.

Pasturage is good all the year. Flowers bloom every day in the year. The honey-bee finds an abundance of material at all seasons, and is very profitably raised. Stock-raising and dairying will amply reward investment, and sheep and poultry are easily kept and do well.

All the staple crops do exceedingly well. Corn has yielded forty to sixty bushels to the acre; potatoes 200 to 300 bushels to the acre. Melons ripen by the middle of May, and garden vegetables are on the tables of settlers all the year.

#### ORANGE COUNTY.

This county lies directly west of Valusia, and compares favorably in soil, climate, productions, etc. There seems to be a rapid improvement extending all over this county. Within a few years small settlements have grown to respectable-sized towns, containing many stores doing a good business, and neat, commodious residences and houses of worship. The peculiar adaptability of this county to the successful raising of the orange, lemon, and all tropical fruits, is attracting the stream of immigration to this section, and each year there is a large increase in permanent settlers.

The county is now studded with orange groves varying in extent from one to one hundred acres, and during the past year new groves are springing up everywhere. This county bids fair to become one vast orange grove, and that without any fear of overstocking the

market, as the supply of Florida oranges will never exceed the demand.

The most remunerative field crop is sugar-cane, and can be raised on land that is not suitable for orange trees. It requires rich land, or that which has been highly manured. It will not pay to attempt to raise it upon poor land, as it is an exceedingly exhausting crop. Swamp muck, which is readily accessible to most lands of the county, has proved to be one of the best manures for it, especially when composted with lime or ashes. The cane, when planted upon rich land, and the proper mode of cultivation pursued, can be relied on to ratoon for five or six years without replanting, and yields from 300 to 400 gallons of beautiful golden syrup, or from 1,200 to 2,000 pounds of sugar per acre, besides the molasses from the drip. Seed cane sufficient to plant an acre will cost \$50, and this will produce seed enough to plant five acres the next year.

Orange County cotton has a high reputation in market for fineness and length of fibre. The usual yield is a 333 pound bale from three acres of pine land. Short staple cotton, where tried, has done well, producing on good land an average bale per acre, and will prove the best paying cotton for this county.

Tobacco, both Virginia and Cuba varieties, succeed here. As high as 1,600 pounds have been raised upon one acre. The climate is so mild that three cuttings can be made a year. The plant generally continues to grow throughout the winter.

Upland rice will pay to raise for family use. When planted on low, rather moist land, the plant will sucker and yield a second cutting, often amounting to half a crop. Twenty to thirty bushels of rough rice is the usual average per acre.

Sweet Potatoes yield from 150 to 400



bushels per acre, depending very much on the variety planted, character of soil, etc. It is a crop that pays well, and requires but little labor.

Corn does well, and garden vegetables in great profusion and variety all the year round. In fact all vegetation can be raised successfully.

Mellonville, Fort Reed, and Sanford on Lake Monroe are thriving places. There are numbers of saw-mills throughout the county. Everywhere enterprise and future wealth and success are apparent.

Situated as it is in a low southern latitude, the natural supposition would be that Orange County must be a hot place; almost unendurable. The fact is, however, entirely the reverse; the thermometer rarely getting higher than 92° in the shade during summer, and seldom as low as the freezing point in the winter. The nights are almost uniformly cool enough to require some bed covering. Being near the center of the peninsula, which will average ninety miles in width, the inhabitants enjoy a constant succession of sea breezes, both from the Atlantic Ocean on the east and the Gulf of Mexico on the west, giving them a climate unsurpassed, and a salubrity of atmosphere that insures good health.

Orange County has all varieties of land, from the low savannas of the St. Johns River to the high, rolling lands of the interior; from the pine land to the rich hammock. The majority of the lands are pine, and often of good quality. The cost of clearing is about \$1.50 per acre. If there is undergrowth to be cut off it will cost more. To clear hammock land, it will cost \$15 to \$20 per acre; shrubbing off the undergrowth and cutting off all trees under ten inches in diameter.

Lands vary in price according to loca-

tion, quality, etc., between the extremes of seventy cents to \$100 per acre.

#### HERNANDO COUNTY.

This county has some characteristics which are peculiar to it alone. It lies south and west of the Withlacoochee River, has a front on the Gulf of Mexico of nearly sixty miles, and there is nowhere a sea-coast more inviting to the immigrant than that from the mouth of the Withlacoochee to the Anclote, a slope of country containing not less than six harbors, where steamers of ordinary draft and coasting vessels can always enter. The numerous bays and channels contain myriads of fish and oysters of superior quality. The coast has little or no surf, and consequently no beach. For this reason it is well-timbered and fertile to the very water's edge. Where there is a rolling surf there is always a wide beach of sand and shell. Along this coast this is prevented by the St. Martin's Reef, which runs parallel with the coast, some ten or fifteen miles from the shore. This forms a perfect break-water to this section, and however rough the Gulf may be, its effects are not felt between the reef and shore. Along this reef there is an extensive sponging business done. At times 60 or 80 vessels may be seen collecting sponges.

This coast section is well suited to the growing of most of the tropical fruits, sugar-cane and nearly all kinds of garden vegetables. It has also the advantage of a shipping port at every five or six miles. It has a healthy and salubrious climate, with bracing sea air, and deer, fowl, fish and oysters in great abundance.

This beautiful county, with as rich lands as any in the world, and as finely timbered, with an admirable climate and average health, has remained almost a wilderness. This, no doubt, is owing

chiefly to its being isolated from the Atlantic. It needs a railroad, or some other communication, to connect it with the cities on the Atlantic seaboard. The county, however, has taken a step in the right direction, and orange culture, and stock raising are indicating success. There are some of the richest lands in the State in this county, and every variety of surface is to be met. Fruit growing, and general agriculture are successful. There are some of the finest pasturages for cattle in this county that can be found in the State, and will compare favorably with the blue grass regions of Kentucky. Few counties have a better climate for the production of tropical fruits. And I believe I never tasted finer oranges than those grown in the neighborhood of Brookville.

Brookville is about eighteen miles from the coast, and is surrounded by some of the richest and most elevated lands of the State. It is near the border of Annuttehlagá Hammock, the largest and most compact body of rich land to be found in Florida. This hammock extends fourteen miles in length and from four to seven miles in width, and adjoining it is Chicichatta and many other detached hammocks of the same quality of soil. There may be as good lands in other parts of the State, but there is certainly not so large a quantity in so compact a body. Taking Brookville as the center, and within a radius of ten miles there is not less than 100,000 acres of first-class hammock lands, and perhaps as much or more of first-class pine land, amounting probably to more than 200,000 acres of the best quality of land in the above compass.

Land is reasonable in price, and settlers can purchase well-improved farms at low figures. A few years will change matters, for residents are beginning to see the county's wants, and at no very

distant day this section will have the proper communication with the Atlantic.

#### SUMTER COUNTY.

Sumter County, with Orange County on the east and Hernando on the west, compares favorably with the other counties of Central Florida, in richness of soil, fruit growing and general agriculture. As to fruit growing, perhaps no portion of Florida has shown more interest, energy and zeal, according to its means, in propagating the different kinds of fruit suitable to be grown in this latitude. So general is the interest, that in every portion of the county can be seen thrifty orange groves.

Leesburg, situated at the head of navigation on Lake Griffin, is a thriving town. A few years ago this was quite a small place, but to-day is evidencing the future prosperity of the surrounding country.

There are some fine farming lands among the rich hammocks of the Withlacoochee River, and on Lakes Pansoffkee, Harris and Griffin, and other smaller bodies of both hammock and pine land are scattered throughout the county. On these lands fine crops of sugar-cane and corn can be successfully cultivated, while the lighter or sandy hammocks, and the better grades of pine land, make excellent crops of long cotton, peas, and potatoes in great abundance, and frequently good crops of cane and corn. These crops are generally certain, scarcely any falling below a good average, unless some casualty should occur, which is not often the case.

In addition to the crops mentioned, tobacco could undoubtedly be made a profitable portion of almost every farm. Experiments in different sections of the county have proven the adaptation of its soil and climate to the production of this article, which, if cultivated to a proper extent, would in a great degree

diversify our crops, curtail the acreage of cotton (so universally ruinous to the farming interest), and retain within the county thousands of dollars annually drained from it to enrich other sections of the country. The arrowroot and cassava, both rich with starch of the finest quality, especially the former, can be raised here in great abundance, and if properly cultivated and prepared for market, would add much to the farming interest of this county.

On Lake Griffin are some very fine and promising orange groves, which already begin to fringe the borders of this pretty lake and to mark the spot where some enterprising settler has dotted the shore with his residence. On Lake Harris are some magnificent young groves just coming into bearing. The rapid growth of these trees is not excelled by any in the country, and fully demonstrates the adaptation of these hammock lands to the growth of the orange and all kindred fruits.

In addition to the orange, attention is also directed to the cultivation of various other fruits—the citron, grapes, bananas, pine-apples, guavas, shaddock and lemons,—all of which are successfully raised.

We will next take up the counties of Southern Florida. Of these, the most important is

#### MANATEE COUNTY.

This county is situated in the southwestern portion of the State, and embraces within its limits about 4,000 square miles, scarcely one-twentieth of which is fit for cultivation, being mostly of a low, flat, swampy nature, subject to overflow in the wet season. There is about 15,000 acres of land owned by actual settlers, and only 3,000 under cultivation.

The principal pursuit in this county

is stock raising—some men owning as many as 10,000 head of cattle. Cuba and Key West afford a ready market for stock at good prices. Hogs are also raised to some extent, and some horses. There are but few sheep in the county, but the raising of them could be made very profitable. Farming is not carried on to any greater extent than what is necessary for home consumption.

What is wanted here is a railroad, extending from Charlotte Harbor to the St. Johns River; then agriculture and fruit-raising would receive the attention they deserve, and Northern markets in mid-winter would be supplied with an abundance of fresh vegetables and fruit.

This whole section of country abounds in game—in fact deer are so numerous that they are troublesome, frequently destroying whole crops of sweet-potatoes many men supporting their families by the sale of venison and deer skins. It is no uncommon thing for a man to kill a dozen deer in a single short hunt. Expert hunters finding a herd of deer at feed, easily detect which is the leader—he shot down, the rest play around until all successively fall victims to his unerring rifle. The water courses all abound in fish, and on the coast particularly mullet, sheephead, redfish, etc., are caught in great quantities. The coast also abounds in the finest of oysters.

A large number of settlers have recently located on the Manatee River, from which point connection is had by steamer to Cedar Keys and Key West, thus affording ready shipment for fruit, etc. These settlers are turning their attention especially to fruit-raising, some of them being Northern men of intelligence and means.

Sarasota, a point on the west coast, selected as a site for a large sanitarium, is settling up very rapidly with men of this class; and there is not a particle of



doubt that were facilities for transportation afforded, this county would soon be populated by a desirable class of settlers. Extend the Southern Railway through to Charlotte Harbor, and then will be opened up to the county, through the influence of the energetic, intelligent class of settlers, with capital at their command, who will locate here, the vast resources of this county; its timber—pine, live oak, cedar, hickory, cypress, maple, etc.; the products of its soil; all the tropical fruits; its beef, the sweetest and finest in the world; its fisheries, etc.

As it is, the county is almost a barren wilderness, save here and there, at intervals of three or four miles apart, a squatter on the public lands, cultivating a potato patch and tending his cattle.

It is impossible to give the exact population of the county, but 2,000 is a fair estimate.

#### HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

The resources of this county have hardly as yet, been touched. Its greatest drawback, like most of the Gulf counties, is transportation. At no distant day a railroad must run down through South Florida, and settlers will find in this section as desirable locations as can be found elsewhere.

Oranges and other fruits are raised successfully. In fact what has been said of surrounding counties, in regard to agriculture, can be said of this.

Tampa is one of the most important places in Southern Florida; population, 2,000. It is situated on Tampa Bay. Population of county, 4,000.

The county has its present drawbacks, like all unsettled counties, but I am fully persuaded, from what I have seen, that this section has as great resources, and offers as many inducements to settlers, as any other part of the State.

Clear Water Harbor is situated in

the west part of Hillsborough County, and five or six miles west of Tampa Bay. The harbor is from twelve to fifteen miles in length, and about two in width. There are two inlets into the bay. The northwest affords about eight or nine feet of water on the bar, and the west about five feet of water. The bay is well situated for business and pleasure, affording an abundance of fish, clams and oysters. The region of Clear Water is noted for its beauty and health. The beach is high, from which can be had a full view of the great Gulf of Mexico, and vessels can be seen passing far out at sea. There is a narrow peninsula extending down between Tampa Bay and Clear Water Harbor that is about thirty miles in length, and from eight to twelve miles in breadth, with a population of some 1,200.

This is a decidedly healthy portion of the State. The stranger will be surprised with meeting numerous persons who have passed over one hundred years of age. The mortality is very slight in this section, and epidemic sicknesses are almost unknown. The deaths mostly occurring among the aged.

The climate is so mild that the farmer can plant and gather something every month in the year. The advantages of such a climate as this to a poor man is considerable. His winter clothing is a trifle, his fuel is nothing—he loses no time from labor for cold weather. The range is good and stock requires no feed in winter. A great variety, and the finest quality of garden vegetables can be raised all the year; in fact no part of the United States can produce any better than are raised here.

#### BREVARD COUNTY.

This county has many natural attractions. The great Okeechobee Lake lies in the southern portion of this county,

as likewise the Valley of the Kissimmee. This region is as yet undeveloped, but when the State is better populated, and the proper system of drainage adapted, this will be the great sugar region of Florida. Indian River lies in this county. This river gives from its head, in connection with the St. Lucie, an uninterrupted navigation to Jupiter Inlet, 175 miles, and is nowhere so much as a mile from the sea. At the head of Indian River there is a large, low hammock, regarded as very rich sugar land. After leaving this hammock, the land upon the banks of the river is mostly third-rate pine; the banks are high and in many places very beautiful. The orange can be cultivated here with great success. There are small bodies of hammock at many places upon the river. Whenever of easy access, this section will be the great resort for invalids and pleasure-seekers, and will have in a few years some of the largest hotels for the accommodation of visitors in the State. The fisheries here will some day be of great value. It is almost impossible to exaggerate the quantity of fish to be caught at many places upon this river.

It has been long thought that the mosquitoes of this section were an effectual barrier to its settlement and cultivation, but this is a mistake. Mosquitoes are indigenous along the whole Atlantic coast from Maine southward, and Florida has her proportionate share of them; but when the length of her coast, and her numerous inland lakes, rivers, creeks and swamps are considered, together with her mild winters and superabundant summer rains, the wonder is to me that they are not more numerous and troublesome, and that in many localities the inhabitants enjoy almost entire exemption from them throughout the year.

It is generally believed that the

species of mosquito infecting the Indian River country is propagated in the decaying grass, and the humus which the absence of fires for years has allowed to accumulate; and this opinion seems to be confirmed by the fact that just in proportion as the burning of the woods takes place, the insects are found to decrease in number.

The Indian River mosquitoes are smaller, and more frail and clumsy than those found in Georgia. The gallinippers and blind mosquitoes of the St. John's River are never seen here. The mosquito season commences about the 1st of June, with the showers, and frequently lasts but a few weeks, when the insects disappear as suddenly as they come. They are to be found in the humid atmosphere of densely shaded swamps, and never in the day-time to transcend their shady limits.

Along the entire length of Indian River, the parallel coast is mainly a deep one. Large wrecks are thrown ashore, and damaged cargoes strew the land. The beach is narrow, and the bluffs high and abrupt, with no swamps or marshes, except toward the southern extremity. The prevailing southeast winds are constantly and gently sweeping the banks of the river, driving the mosquitoes into the country beyond. They cannot stand light, wind or smoke, and are easily excluded by a bar.

The many fabulous stories which have been told of the insects of the Indian River country are mainly the result of the wonderful growth which such "hearsay" tales are wont to make in the fertile minds of imaginative narrators, as they pass from lip to lip. I was so dismayed by these exaggerations as I first passed up the St. John's River, on my way to Indian River, that had I not been ashamed to turn back, I should have probably never seen what I con-

sider the most beautiful, healthy and fertile country of which I have any knowledge, and am satisfied that the insects will not interfere with the comfort of anybody.

This county is fast showing the effects of energy and capital, and it is being demonstrated that not only the wild beast, the Indian and the settler can stand the insects, but the delicate women and children are happy and contented in their new homes, and hopeful in prospect of the golden harvest of the future.

#### POLK COUNTY.

The surface of this county is what may be termed gradually undulating. The lands are hammock, pine and prairie. The prairie lands are vast plains or beautiful savannas—dressed in luxuriant verdure and living green—dotted ever and anon with clusters of trees, oasis-like, giving a romantic view to the eye, if “distance lends enchantment to the view.” The prairies are the favorite resort for herds of cattle, with deer and other game, which roam and feed on its fragrant herbage. The hammock and pine lands are rich.

The rivers and lakes afford innumerable quantities of fish and water-fowl, such as duck, snipe, crane, water-turkey, marsh-hen, and a variety of others, of beautiful plumage. The forests abound in enough of game to tempt the cupidity of any hunter, such as deer, bear, panther, wild-cat, racoon, opossum, foxes, rabbits and squirrels, with thousands of turkeys, partridges, etc., and during the periodical inundation of the flats and prairies of this section, which occur from June 15th to September 15th, if any one wished to embark in the business, they could gather 100 bushels of frogs per acre, and enough alligators to fence them in with.

The population of the county is 3,500. Bartow, the county seat, is

located in a very fertile and healthy section. The climate is temperate, serene, and genial as any land beneath the sun. The citizens of the county are ever kind, hospitable and generous. Stock-raising constitutes the principal production of the county, which find a ready market in Cuba and Key West.

#### DADE COUNTY.

This county embraces the greater part of the southern extremity of Florida. It has within its limits most of that portion of the State known as the Everglades. This singular feature of Southern Florida, which is world-renowned, and has excited the wonder and astonishment of the tourist, is simply a shallow lake of vast extent. As is indicated by its name, it presents one of the grandest spectacles of semi-tropical richness to be found on the continent of America. It is one of Nature's magnificent exhibitions of vegetation, which strikes the eye with wonder and delight. The water is from six inches to six feet in depth, and teems with aquatic and semi-aquatic grasses and plants. Out of the surface of the lake rise innumerable small islands, containing from one to one hundred acres of land. These islands are covered over with a growth of cypress, sweet-bay, crab-wood, mastic, cocoa palms, cabbage palmetto, and live and water oaks; beneath which morning glories, lilies, and beautiful flowers in almost endless variety bloom, and around which strange parasitic plants and vines, like huge serpents, twine themselves; the whole presenting a scene of surpassing beauty. The water is pure and clear, and abounds in fish, turtle, and that less desirable production, alligators. Through the islands the deer and black bear roam. The panther makes his lair in the long grass. Wildcats in great numbers hide themselves in the gray moss which



drapes and festoons the trees, while the gorgeous colors of the wood-duck, the ibis and the gallinule delight the eye at every turn.

Around the Everglades is a margin of prairie, from half a mile to a mile in breadth, and comprises some of the richest land to be found in the United States, and has a productive capacity for every variety of vegetable life known in the tropics, that is unsurpassed.

The soil of Dade County is sandy, and is adapted for the cultivation of Sea Island cotton, which is here perennial, and can be picked at almost all seasons of the year. Along Biscayne Bay, tobacco, equal to the best grown in Cuba, can be cultivated; while the banana, plantain, cocoa-nut, guava, sapadilla, pomegranate, mammee, tamarind, pineapple, lime, lemon, citron, orange and every other variety of tropical fruit can be grown here successfully. The pineapple is certain to become a staple production of Dade County, not only on account of the superior quality of the fruit raised here, but also from the fact that with proper means of transportation it can be placed in the Northern markets a great deal earlier than the Cuban or Bahamian fruit. Grapes ripen here in May, and are of superior quality. The finest varieties of figs in great abundance.

Dade County is the most sparsely populated county in Florida. This has been owing to the fact that until within the last few years but little has been known of this section. Lands are worth from seventy-five cents to one dollar per acre. The climate is exceedingly agreeable and conducive to health. The thermometer throughout the year shows a temperature of about 75°—the extremes being 51° and 92°. It is never visited by frost, and the heat of mid-summer is

much less oppressive than at New York or places farther north.

Most of the islands or keys of the Florida Reef, extending from Dry Tortugas to Virginia Key, properly form a part of this county. Indian Key is one of the few islands of the reef that can be called inhabited. It has been a rendezvous of the wreckers for many years. The whole island is under cultivation, and almost every variety of tropical fruit is grown to perfection.

#### MONROE COUNTY.

This county is bounded on the north by Manatee County, on the east by Dade, and on the south and west by the Gulf of Mexico and the Florida Straits. The Caloosahatchie separates it from Manatee County. At the mouth of this river is Punta Rassa, a place of considerable importance during the Indian wars. A fortified block-house and other Government buildings yet remain. A little above the mouth is the garrison of Fort Meyers, a most delightful situation.

Of the archipelago within the limits of Monroe County, the island of Key West is the most important. This place has long enjoyed a very high reputation as a resort for invalids, and its claims are undoubtedly of the first order. Here the invalid in quest of health, can find a delightful climate, and all the necessaries and comforts of life in abundance. The island is about five miles in length and one in width. The city of Key West is situated at the western extremity, where there is a large and commodious harbor, of great depth, and incalculable importance in a commercial point of view. The principal industry is cigar making, although all the tropical fruits are raised in abundance. The city is rapidly increasing in population and wealth. Another industry is wrecking. Key West

is the principal rendezvous of the wreckers along the Florida coast. Besides these industries, it is the principal point for the shipment of cattle from the ranges of the southern portion of the State for Cuba.

Most of the lands of Monroe County are worthless for purposes of agriculture at present, but it contains savannas and bodies of hammock land unsurpassed in richness, and which, with a proper system of drainage, will be held in the highest estimation for the cultivation of tropical fruits.

Since traveling through Florida, I have received numerous letters from individuals desirous of a more general description of particular counties, etc. Persons wishing any information in regard to Florida, as to prices of land, crops raised and profits, desirable locations for visit or settlement, society in each locality, etc., can address me per letter, in care of the publisher, inclosing one dollar as fee for correspondence.

I will now take the reader through the principal cities and towns of the State, giving a fair idea of each as I proceed.

#### JACKSONVILLE.

Jacksonville is the most populous city in the State, and in commerce, industry and wealth, is taking rapidly a high position among the cities of the Atlantic seaboard. It is in Duval County, about twenty-five miles from the mouth of the St. John's River. Its population proper is about 10,000, but during the winter it often swells to 20,000. From its situation at the mouth of a magnificent river, which, with its tributaries, is navigable a distance of one thousand miles, and draining a region of country unparalleled for the richness of its soil and variety of its productions, with the increasing enterprise of its merchants, and populace, it is

destined, at no very distant day, to be one of the great commercial marts of the world.

The principal business at present is the manufacture of lumber, and frequently the river is dotted with a dozen or two of foreign and home vessels awaiting their turn to be supplied. In the space of four miles up and down the river a dozen steam saw-mills are kept constantly at work throughout the year, and manufacture about 50,000,000 feet annually. There are also numerous mills on the railroads leading to the interior, which send their lumber to Jacksonville for shipment.

There are numbers of good-sized stores, well filled with goods, presenting an appearance of thrift and business, which would do credit to any city of ten times greater population. Most of the buildings in the business part of the city have been erected in the past five years, are mostly nice-looking bricks, and the stores, two or three stories high, have a substantial appearance.

Bay Street is the principal thoroughfare, and is broad and handsome, running parallel with the river, and straight for about a mile. From the general appearance of the buildings and surroundings, this street claims to be, in the future, one of the handsomest streets to be found in any city of the South. Some ten or a dozen streets run parallel to this one, and these are crossed at right angles by twenty others, cutting the city into blocks of a fair size. Many of the private residences are very respectable as to size and architecture, and many of the buildings of older date are being altered. Most of the streets are shaded with large and elegant trees, and give a cool and refreshing aspect to the dwellings. Leading out of the city are fine shell roads which present delightful drives.

There are ten churches; none of these are very fine edifices, but the Episcopalians and Catholics are erecting handsome ones. The schools are good and graded, and are under the charge of competent superintendents and teachers, and are doing well.

There are five large and good hotels, the Grand National Hotel, the St. James, the Metropolitan, the Waverly House, and the St. Johns House, with a dozen or more smaller ones and numerous private boarding houses. The first two accommodate about 300 guests each, and during a season accommodate as much as 5,000 guests each.

As to newspapers, there are three offices—two tri-weeklies, one semi-weekly, and two weeklies. There are three banks, and are all doing a good business. There is a good supply of doctors, lawyers and ministers, but any number of resolute and business men can find openings for success.

Surrounding the city are three or four suburban towns, which, in the course of time will be united with the city. These are La Villa, Hansontown, East Jacksonville, Brooklyn, Springfield and Riverside.

The accommodations for travel are two trains from the west, and two outgoing daily. The steamers City Point and Dictator, running between Palatka and Charleston tri-weekly, and the Lizzie Baker between Palatka and Savannah weekly. While there are several other steamers plying daily between this point and the upper St. Johns and its tributaries. In fact there is every facility for transportation of freight and passengers necessary that any reasonable community or person could desire. The city possesses telegraphic facilities to all parts of the United States.

The people of Jacksonville, as a mass, are intelligent, active and hospitable,

and the church-going proportion is quite large on the Sabbath.

Real estate is low, but the tendency is upward, and with a prosperous country above, it must continue to have a rapid and healthy growth.

#### FERNANDINA

Is the next city in importance. It is located on Amelia Island and St. Marys Bay, in Nassau County, on the best harbor of the Atlantic south of Norfolk, and about fifty miles north of Jacksonville. Population about 3,500. It is a thriving place, and offers to the far-seeing capitalist the chance of building up a wide-spread and lucrative trade, as its future destiny is the outlet for the products of Florida; the center for its lumber trade and naval stores; and the shipping point for a large share of the products of the Gulf States.

Steamers leave twice a week for Savannah and Charleston, and twice for the South; while it has daily connections per rail with the Gulf coast, with Jacksonville, and the railroads leading into Georgia, and thence north and west. Sailing vessels supplied with lumber by twenty saw-mills depart constantly for Northern ports, the West Indies, South America and Europe.

The visitor can not but recognize the thrift, energy and future prosperity of this place. The buildings and streets are like most Southern cities, but improvements are everywhere indicated, and in a few years the smaller business houses will be supplanted with massive edifices.

The pleasure-seeker will find in the chance for boating and duck-shooting offered by her harbor, in the shell road and unrivalled beach, with its invigorating surf baths and its fifteen miles of smooth, unbroken race track, sufficient attraction for a lengthy stay.



With a liberal policy pursued by those who control her destiny, Fernandina's future must be great and bright.

#### ST. AUGUSTINE

In all probability is the oldest city in the United States, is in St. John's County, on Mantanzas River, about thirty-five miles south of Jacksonville, and fifteen miles east of the St. John's River. Population about 2,500. Its quaint appearance, its houses—half Moorish, half Christian—the many historic associations which cluster around it, its delightful sea-shore situation, and the delicious character of its climate, make it one of the principal places of attraction to the myriads of health and pleasure-seekers who flock to the State from all portions of the Union during the winter months. Opposite the city is Anastasia Island, on the south and west of the city is Sebastian River.

Strangers visiting the city, generally go by steamers up the St. Johns to Tocoi, and are conveyed thence to St. Augustine by rail, a distance of 15 miles in half an hour. On approaching the city the first objects of attraction are the substantial bridge that spans the Sebastian River and the long and narrow causeway which leads to the city. As the visitor leaves the causeway in the rear, he passes beneath the dense foliage of the oak, and the Pride of India trees, with the never absent moss adorning their branches in long skeins. On the right we next see the residence of A. Gilbert, Esq., with its handsome surroundings; on the left is the orange grove and residence of Dr. Anderson; in the rear of his place is the elegant mansion of Henry Ball, Esq., and after this arrives in front of the "Plaza," and is then in the heart of the city.

There are four principal streets, which extend nearly the length of the city. The first one passed on entering the city

is Tolmato, upon which the Catholic Cemetery is located. St. George Street is the second, and is called the Fifth Avenue. Charlotte Street is the third, is from 12 to 16 feet in width, and a mile in length. Bay Street is the fourth, and commands a fine view of St. Augustine Bay, Anastasia Island and the Ocean. The streets are all quite narrow, and some very narrow. The old Spanish residences are mostly built of stone from the quarries on Anastasia Island. This stone looks like a mass of small shell ossified. These houses are covered with stucco, and whitewashed; and many have balconies on their second stories overhanging the streets.

Among the things of note is the sea wall, which extends along the front of the city; it is one mile in length, and has a coping of granite, four feet wide, which is a delightful promenade in the evening. Near its southern extremity is the Government Barracks.

At the north-eastern end of the town is Fort Marion, which commands the inlet from the ocean. It is one of the oldest fortifications on this continent, and has accommodations for 1,000 soldiers.

The city gate is at the north end of the city, at the head of St. George Street. This antique object is all that is left of what is supposed to have been a wall surrounding the city.

There are numerous other attractions for the visitor in this ancient city, some of which we will name: The Catholic Cathedral, in its Moorish style; the St. Marys Convent, on St. George Street, just west of the Cathedral; the old convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph, on Charlotte Street, north of the Barracks; the monument in honor of the Confederate dead, on St. George Street, south of Bridge Street; the Plaza, in the center of the city; the Governor's Palace, corner of St. George

and King Streets; the Military Cemetery, just south of the Barracks; the Catholic Cemetery, on the north end of Tolmato Street; the Huguenot Cemetery, on King's Road, just north and west of the City Gate. All these will repay the stranger's visit, and some of them will illustrate the times of old Spanish reign.

At one time in the olden history of this city, the principal industry of the inhabitants was the orange culture. The fruit of St. Augustine was then esteemed as the finest in the world, and its culture was exceedingly profitable. But in one night, in the year 1835, the orange groves were swept off by a heavy frost, and St. Augustine has never fully recovered from the blow. There are some small groves in the city and vicinity at present, which bear well, but parties engaging in orange culture seek a more southerly situation to insure against frost.

Before leaving the city, do not fail to visit North Beach, from which a fine view of the Atlantic Ocean can be had. There are other points of interest, to which numerous yachts can be hired to convey strangers, and which will repay a visit.

North of the city is the suburban town of Ravenswood, recently laid out by J. F. Whitney. There are beautiful building sites at this place, and it promises a rapid occupation by superb residences.

There are many orange groves and beautiful gardens surrounding St. Augustine, and are features of admiration to the Northerner. The semi-tropical fruits are also raised in great profusion, and of such delicious flavor that once tasting will never be forgotten.

We will now take the reader to the St. John's River, and leaving Jacksonville, we will proceed up the river,

describing cities and villages to the right and left as we advance on our journey.

#### ST. JOHN'S RIVER.

This is the largest river in the State, and is in some respects as large as any in America. It flows directly north 300 miles, then turns abruptly east, and empties into the Atlantic Ocean. The St. Johns is a tropical river, its beauty steals over you as you advance. In groups along its banks are seen the palm, the live-oak with branches streaming with silvery moss; while in the background are seen the feathery pine-trees purple in the distance. The numerous springs and swamps in the southern portion of the State empty their surplus water into this noble stream, which gains in volume and width as it approaches the Atlantic from the numerous creeks and smaller rivers frequent along its shores. Many portions of the river are six miles wide, and at no point north of Lake George is it less than one mile wide. Along its banks may be seen many cozy homes, and orange groves and villages which lend enchantment to thousands of visitors who pass up the St. Johns in the winter season annually, enjoying this delightful climate. Leaving Jacksonville, and passing up the St. Johns, the first point of note is

#### MANDARIN.

It is a village of 300 inhabitants, and is one of the oldest settlements on the river. One of the attractions of the place is Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe's winter residence, which is the cottage at the left of the pier surrounded with oak and other trees. This village is sixteen miles above Jacksonville, and on the left hand side going up. At one time during the Seminole wars every inhabitant of this place was massacred by the Indians. We next see

## HIBERNIA,

On the right hand, seven miles farther up the river, and twenty-three from Jacksonville. This place is the pleasant, quiet resort of numbers of invalids, and is desirably located.

## MAGNOLIA,

Six miles above Hibernia, and on the same side of the river, is another pleasant resort. To the north a short distance we passed Black Creek, which is navigable for steamers to the center of Clay County, and is one of the outlets for the products of the surrounding country. Two miles above Magnolia, on the right, is

## GREEN COVE SPRING,

Which is the county seat of Clay County, and is one of the favorite places of resort for northern visitors. We are now thirty-one miles from Jacksonville. The Sulphur Spring is one of the attractions of this place, and is the acknowledged panacea for chronic rheumatism. The water of the spring is so clear and so warm, that bathing may be indulged in in January with pleasure. The temperature of the water is about 78 degrees, and its sulphurous condition is quite distinguishable by taste and odor. The Springs form a beautiful cove, wide-spread, with an arc of a mile at least, and open on the St. Johns River, here four miles across. There is excellent accommodation for visitors, which are extensively patronized. This place is destined to become one of considerable importance.

## PICALATA,

Is on the opposite shore, about ten miles above this point. From this place a few years ago the passengers from the St. Johns for St. Augustine were conveyed by stage. Opposite this place, on the west bank, are the remains of the ancient Spanish fort Fort Poppa. We next see

## TOCOI,

On the left, five miles above, and forty-six miles from Jacksonville. This is the present point of transfer for visitors to St. Augustine, and is in a direct line 14 miles west from that place. This place often presents a lively appearance from the numbers of strangers desirous of visiting the Saratoga of Florida. Trains make the trip to St. Augustine in about half an hour. Leaving Tocoí, we proceed on our journey, thirty-four miles, and arrive at

## PALATKA.

This is the county seat of Putnam County, and is seventy-five miles from Jacksonville, and next to that place is the largest city on the St. Johns. It is at this point that passengers are generally transferred to steamers for Enterprise, Sanford, Mellonville, excursions up the Oclawaha to Silver Spring, Dunis Lake, etc. The population is about 1,500. There are two excellent hotels, a saw-mill, grist-mill, cotton-gin, two moss factories, numerous wholesale and retail stores, a weekly newspaper, churches and schools. It is the head of steamboat navigation,—all the Charleston and Savannah steamers coming to Palatka; there is also a daily line of steamers from Jacksonville, giving a daily mail. This is a thriving place, and is the shipping point for large quantities of cotton, sugar, oranges and other productions, which trade is constantly increasing. It is also a favorite resort for invalids and visitors, and during the winter season the hotels and many private boarding houses are filled to overflowing. There are several fine orange groves within its limits and many pleasant residences. Four miles south of Palatka, on the opposite side of the river, is

## SAN MATEO.

This is a new and thriving settlement of only five years' growth, Its inhabi-



tants are engaged in the orange business, and numerous very promising young groves are commencing to bear. There are several Sulphur Springs at this place, and is beginning to attract attention as a place of resort for visitors. San Mateo is unsurpassed for the beauty and healthfulness of its location.

#### WELAKA

Is on the left hand side of the river, and twenty-five miles above Palatka. It is the site of an old Spanish settlement, and is opposite the entrance of the Ocklawaha River. This was once quite a town, but a very few settlers represent it now. It has a post-office and steamboat landing. South of and immediately adjoining Welaka is the new town of Beecher. South of this place the St. Johns gradually expands and forms Lake George, which is ten miles wide and eighteen miles long. Rembert Island, in this lake, has on it one of the largest orange groves in the State. Before leaving Welaka, we will introduce the reader to the most remarkable river in the State.

#### THE OCKLAWAHA.

This river is a tributary of the St. Johns, passes nearly through the center of Marion County, and empties into the St. John's River about 125 miles from its mouth. It is navigated a distance of 200 miles by a number of novel little steamboats somewhat resembling two-storied canal-boats, which connect with the ocean steamers at Palatka and Jacksonville. The Ocklawaha is a narrow river, rapid in current, tortuous in its winding course, and magnificent and enchanting in its shore linings of ash, oak, cypress and palmetto—it is really a channel or passage through a cypress swamp and forest tangle. It is here numbers of alligators of all sizes, and many species of birds of beautiful plum-

age attract the eye. The celebrated Silver Spring is 140 miles from its mouth. All the Ocklawaha boats run to its head, from which a large amount of shipping is done. This spring has obtained a notoriety as extensive as the continent; it forms at its head a basin of two or three acres in extent, and sends forth a deep volume of water one to two hundred feet in width, extending to and uniting with the Ocklawaha River. This beautiful spring, how can I describe it! As we leave the Ocklawaha we turn into a silvery stream which carries our boat along between open savannas, covered with varieties of the richest flowers. This stream has a rapid current, and although twenty feet deep, the water is so clear that the bottom is distinctly visible. Nine miles up this stream and we are at the spring-head, or Silver Spring. This spring is a beautiful lakelet, surrounded by foliage and flowers, moss-draped live-oaks, walls of Cherokee roses, and in fact everything in Nature's attractive colors. The water is so transparent, that a button can be seen distinctly on its bottom, and all its surroundings are repainted by refraction in its water. This spring is noted in history as the spot where General Thompson was massacred by Ocoola's band. There is a small settlement at Silver Spring, and freight and passengers are conveyed by stage and express carts to the town of Ocala.

Returning to the Ocklawaha, the steamer proceeds farther up the river, bound for the lakes at its head—Lakes Griffin, Harris, Eustis and Dora. After seeing all the natural wonders of this river, you will find it as attractive as ever as you retrace its course. At every nook some new object or beauty of Nature seems to bud up to startle curiosity. In fact this river and its wild scenery will never be forgotten by the visitor,

and if for nothing else than to see this river the traveler visited the State, this alone will repay his trouble and expense.

Proceeding again up the St. Johns, on our return to Welaka, and after passing numerous small settlements, we next come to

#### SANFORD.

This place is located on the right hand side of Lake Monroe, in Orange County, 204 miles from Jacksonville, and nearly opposite Enterprise, and one mile north from Mellonville. It takes its name from the projector, H. S. Sanford, Esq. There is a fine hotel, called the Sanford House, here, which accommodates 250 guests. Orange County abounds in all kinds of tropical fruits, and fish, oysters and game in abundance. This is one of the most healthy locations in the State, and is visited by thousands annually in search of health and pleasure. One mile further south is Mellonville, the site of old Fort Mellon of Indian times. Surrounding this place are numerous orange groves, the delicious fragrance of whose blossoms, when in bloom, are inhaled for miles. It is a thriving place, and contains many neat dwellings, churches, stores, etc. This is also in Orange County, and is attracting numerous permanent settlers, who are planting orange groves all over the county of from one to two hundred acres.

Crossing the lake, we are at

#### ENTERPRISE,

On the north bank of Lake Monroe. This place is the terminus of the Palatka boats, and is a well-patronized point. Fishing and hunting parties are conveyed from here to Lakes Harney and Jessup by small steamers during the winter; and through Lake Harney to Salt Lake, the nearest point to the Indian River, the sportsman's paradise for game and fish. This is an enterprising place,

and is the scene of many lively and well-equipped hunting parties going and returning from the hunting grounds of the Sunny South.

Leaving the St. John's River, we will now take the reader to

#### NEW SMYRNA.

This place is due east twenty miles from Enterprise, on Mosquito River, four miles south of the inlet of the same name, sixty miles south of St. Augustine and near the Atlantic coast. This is a beautiful and healthy place, and is famous in history as the Turnbull settlement a hundred years ago. Good hotel accommodations, and numerous neat dwellings, and several stores make up this retreat. Vessels of the largest size come up to this place. The prospects in the future of New Smyrna are very good, and the place is usually well-filled and popular with the traveler and invalid. There are some fine orange groves in the vicinity; the celebrated grove owned by Capt. Dummitt is located south of the inlet, and is enormously productive.

Before leaving the reader, and while in this vicinity, I will give them a brief description of a few promising little towns near New Smyrna. We will first visit

#### NEW BRITAIN.

Some enterprising people from Connecticut have settled this place within a few years, and its appearance is very promising. It is named after their Connecticut home. The inhabitants are as a class as desirable settlers as can be found in the State. They went right about the practical work of tilling the soil and building themselves desirable houses, and now show every evidence of independence and comfort. There has been a gradual increase in this place, and new families are following the example of original settlers. The land is

rich and good in this vicinity, and the farms under successful cultivation will average about ten acres, which is found to be sufficient for the bountiful support of an ordinary-sized family. Small orange groves are being set out, and prosperity seems to be indicated on every hand. This place is about fifteen miles north of the Mosquito Inlet, and nineteen miles north of New Smyrna.

#### DAYTONA.

This town is located on the west bank of Halifax River, twelve miles north of the inlet, and sixteen miles north of New Smyrna. The population of this place is very small, say 150, and is principally composed of Northerners desirous of genial homes; as there is no part of Florida nearer perfection in climate than this region, Daytona looks favorable as a prosperous settlement. It is laid out on a tract of land comprising some 2,000 acres, and is surveyed into lots of forty acres, at prices varying from \$1 to \$10 per acre. There are twenty to thirty nice frame houses, several neat and tasty cottages, stores, and in fact everything desirable in a settlement. Its location is exceedingly good, and visitors here are provided with every reasonable comfort, and find themselves surrounded with the refinements and amenities of the best social life. The ground upon which this place is located has a gradual rise as it recedes from the river, until at the distance of thirty rods, it attains an elevation of some fifteen feet above the water. Its whole area is thickly covered with a second growth of oak, hickory, pine, palmetto, mulberry, and a variety of other trees usually found in the ham-

mock lands. These trees are from fifteen to fifty feet in height, thrifty in growth and very beautiful in appearance. They are one of the most attractive features of this locality. A street, appropriately named Ridgeway Avenue, has been opened through a forest of these trees, offering the most desirable sites for residences, as such redundant, varied and beautiful vegetation could not be produced in years by any expenditure of money. Lying far enough south to be beyond the reach of winter cold, yet exempt from the too ardent heat of the tropics; with health and plenty at its doors, Daytona can claim the attention of thousands wanting a delightful and quiet home in the South.

#### HALIFAX CITY.

This place is about three miles northwest and in full view of the inlet, and is a most healthy and delightful situation on the Halifax River. The lands are high and dry hammock, affording excellent, sweet water and insuring perfect health, while they are rich, productive and pre-eminently adapted to orange growing. Rose Bay is a large basin of salt and tidal water, flowing in and out directly from the ocean, and encircling the town east and west. The shore is bold and clean. The waters afford an ample supply of the best of oysters and abound in the most excellent varieties of fish. Large vessels come up to the town. This place has been laid out by the East Florida Land Company, and will no doubt be the chief commercial center of this section of the country, as well as a most attractive and desirable village of winter and summer residents and fruit-growers.







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
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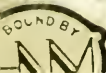














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